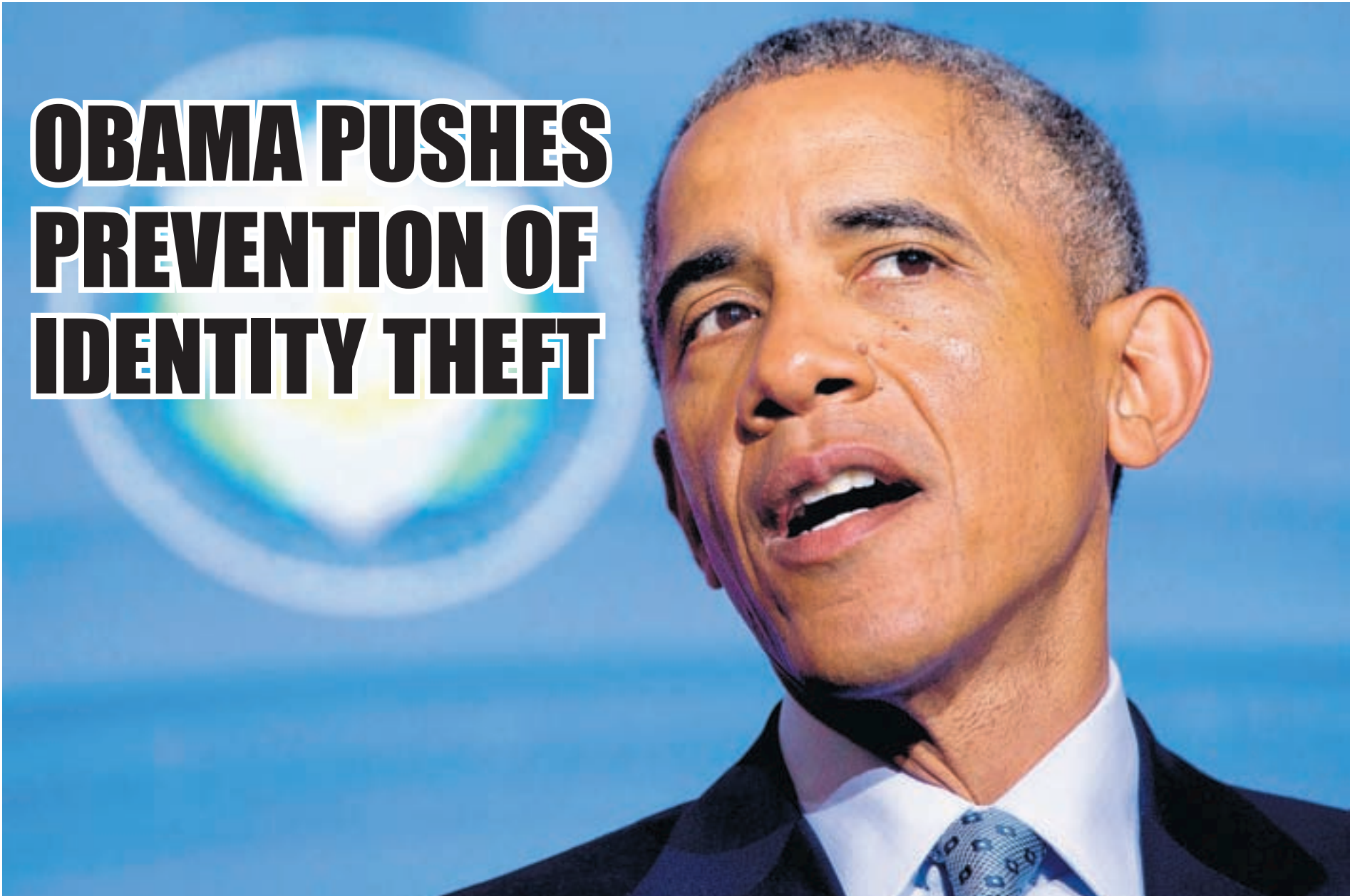



OBAMA PUSHES PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT



President Barack Obama speaks at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offices at the Constitution Center in Washington, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, about his plan to improve confidence in technology by tackling identify theft and improving consumer and student privacy. The president wants Congress to pass legislation requiring companies to inform customers within 30 days if their data has been hacked, a move that follows high-profile breaches at retailers including Target, Home Depot and Neiman Marcus.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)
Page 4



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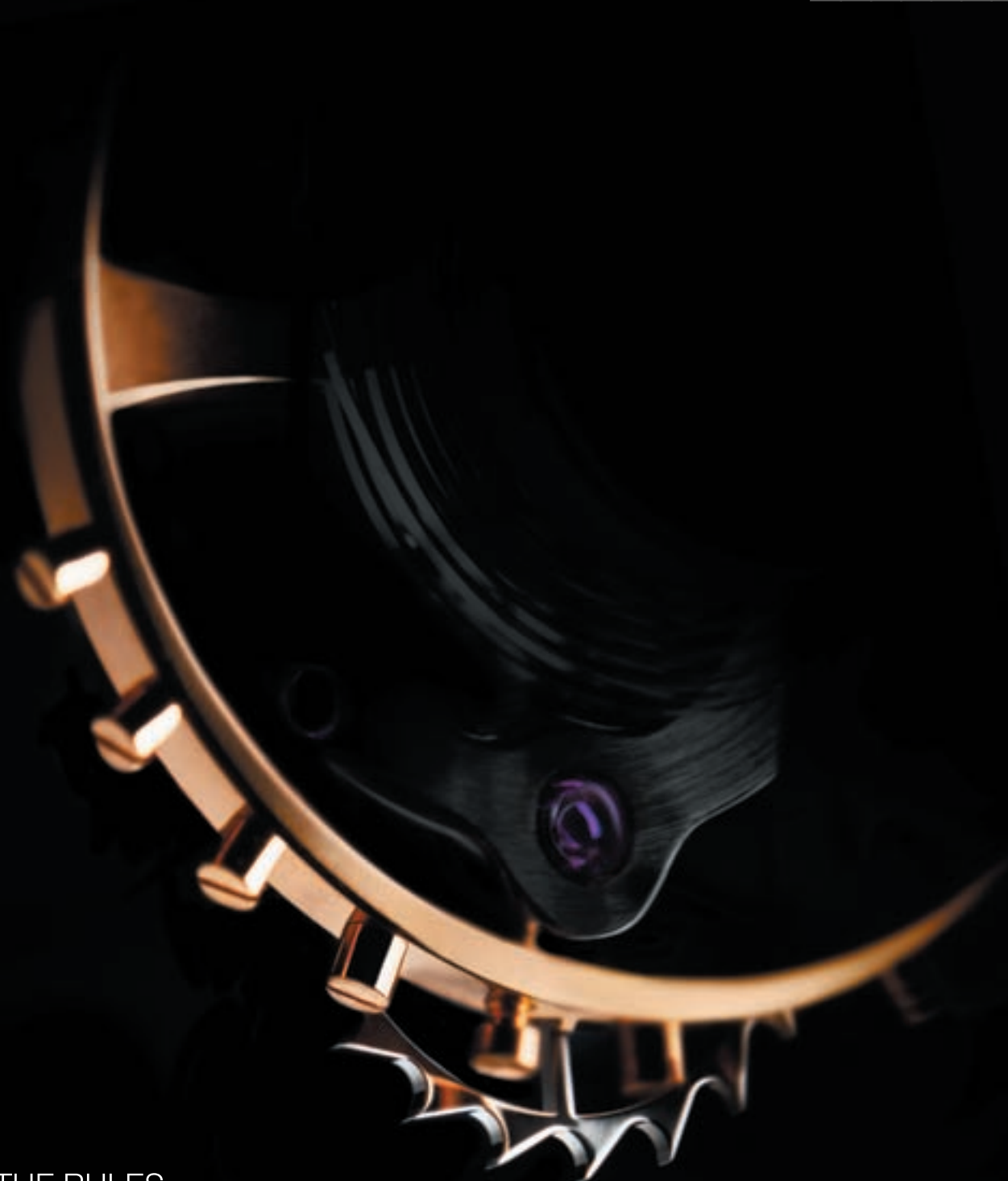
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Cuba completes release of 53 political prisoners

MATTHEW LEE
BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Cuba has completed the release of 53 political prisoners that was part of last month's historic deal between the United States and Cuba, the Obama administration said Monday. The move clears a major hurdle for the normalization of ties between the two countries after more than five decades of estrangement.

The prisoners had been on a list of opposition figures whose release was sought as part of the U.S. agreement last month with the Cuban government. They had been cited by various human rights organizations as being imprisoned by the Cuban government for exercising internationally protected freedoms or for their promotion of political and social reforms in Cuba.

Speaking in Louisville, Kentucky, President Barack Obama's U.N. ambassador said the prisoners were released in recent days. "Welcome as that step is, and heartening as it is for their families, (it) does not resolve the larger human rights problems on the island," Samantha Power said, according to prepared remarks. Earlier, an official traveling with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Islamabad said the U.S. verified the release.

Power was speaking Monday at an event hosted by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. She outlined issues which the administration and the Republican-led Congress could work together on and issues they remained further apart on.

Both sides want to advance freedom in Cuba, she said, but they disagree on strategy.

"Some of the embargo's staunchest defenders are Democrats and Republicans with deep ties to the island — people whose families came to America fleeing the Castros' repression," Power explained. "These are men and women who are completely dedicated to doing all they can to ensure that Cubans on the island get to enjoy true freedom. So it is important to acknowledge that while there may be disagreements on the best way to get there, we share a common goal of advancing the rights of the Cuban people."

Power said changes already are occurring in Cuba. When Cuban artist Tania Bruguera and other activists were detained after announcing an anti-government event in Havana's historic Revolution Square, she said, nearly 300 Cuban artists signed a letter supporting her freedom.

"In spite of genuine fear, Cubans were speaking out," Power said. "And the Castro government was forced to explain why it would rather arrest a woman than let her speak freely in a public square."

Last month, Cuba and the U.S. agreed to work to restore normal diplomatic relations as part of a deal in which Cuba freed an imprisoned U.S. aid worker along with an imprisoned spy working for the U.S. and the imprisoned dissidents. The U.S. released several Cuba intelligence agents.

"Certainly, for those 53 prisoners, it's a great deal. We don't know who they are," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said in an appearance Monday on "CBS This Morning." Rubio said he supports improving ties with Cuba but said he's worried that the Cubans are getting virtually everything they want from the United States for "these minimal changes."

He said he wants to be certain that improved relations between Washington and Havana provides equal benefits to the U.S. □

White House: US should have sent more high profile officials to march

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - The White House, facing a barrage of criticism for President Barack Obama's decision not to attend Sunday's peace march in Paris, said Monday that a U.S. official with a higher profile should have been on hand for the show of solidarity.

"It's fair to say that we should have sent someone with a higher profile to be there," Josh Earnest, the White House spokesman, said at his daily briefing with reporters at the White House.

Asked his response to critics who say a person with more prominence than the U.S. ambassador to France should have attended, he

considered attending the march himself or sending Vice President Joe Biden, or to detail the conversations that led to the decision not to do so. But he cited scheduling and security concerns as playing a part.

"The security requirements around a presidential visit, or even a vice presidential visit are onerous," Earnest said, noting that security would have had to secure a large outdoor area, potentially making it harder for other people to attend. "It would have been very difficult to do so without significantly impacting the ability of common citizens to participate."

He also said, "We're talking about a march that came

West against Islamic extremism since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, took to Twitter to criticize the president. "Obama declining to show solidarity with over three million in France is beyond crass, even for this administration," he wrote in a post. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a potential presidential candidate, called Obama's absence "symbolic of the lack of American leadership on the world stage, and it is dangerous."

In an opinion piece posted on Monday by Time Magazine, Cruz wrote: "Our president should have been there, because we must



White House Press secretary Josh Earnest speaks to the media during the daily briefing in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Earnest said the White House erred in not sending higher level official to the anti-terror march in Paris.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

said: "We agree."

But Claudine Ripert-Landler, the head of communications for President François Hollande of France, said Obama had not snubbed the march.

"President Obama supported France in their common struggle against terrorism," she said Monday, adding that Obama's visit to the French embassy was "a rather exceptional gesture." "Mr. Obama's attentions have been very important to Mr. Hollande," she said.

Earnest declined to say whether the president had

together with essentially 36 hours' notice."

The absence of Obama or any other senior U.S. official in the wake of the shootings of 17 people there in attacks last week at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and at a kosher supermarket - the U.S. ambassador to France, Jane D. Hartley, participated in the rally - prompted questions from Republican lawmakers and some foreign policy analysts who said there should have been a prominent U.S. leader on hand for the most striking show of solidarity in the

never hesitate to stand with our allies." Secretary of State John Kerry announced Monday that he would travel to Paris on Thursday.

"I really think this is sort of quibbling a little bit," Kerry said of the criticism.

Speaking Monday in Gujarat, India, Kerry said that he had been unable to personally attend because of his prior commitment there but that he would visit Paris on his way home "to make it crystal clear how passionately we feel about the events that have taken place there." □

Key US Centcom websites hacked

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hackers claiming to work on behalf of Islamic State militants seized control of the Twitter and YouTube sites of the military's U.S. Central Command on Monday. The Pentagon swiftly suspended the sites and said it appears that no classified material was breached.

The hacker group appears to be the same one that is under FBI investigation for hijacking the websites or Twitter feeds of media outlets in the last month, including a Maryland television station and a New Mexico newspaper.

The Central Command Twitter site was filled with threats that said "American soldiers, we are coming, watch your back." Other postings appeared to list names, phone numbers and personal email addresses of military personnel as well as PowerPoint slides and maps.

Most of the material was labeled "FOUO," which means "For Official Use Only," but none of it appeared to be classified or sensitive information, suggesting the hackers did not breach classified material. One of the documents appeared to be slides developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory, a federally funded research and development center focused on national security. The slides appeared to depict what it called "scenarios" for conflict with North Korea and China.

"This is little more than a

prank or vandalism. It's inconvenient and it's an annoyance. But that's all it is," said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. "It in no way compromises our operations in any way shape or form."

Central Command Twitter page "CyberCaliphate" with an underline that said "i love you isis." And the broader message referred to the ongoing airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria and



This screen grab made Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 show the front page of the U.S. Central Command twitter account after it was hacked. The twitter site of the military's U.S. Central Command was taken over Monday by hackers claiming to be working on behalf of the Islamic State militants. American and coalition fighters are launching airstrikes against IS in Iraq and Syria. The site was filled with threats that said "American soldiers, we are coming, watch your back." Other postings appeared to list names and phone numbers of military personnel as well as PowerPoint slides and maps.

(AP Photo)

Warren said Pentagon officials are in contact with Twitter and YouTube to ensure that military passwords and other security for such public websites are adequate.

The tweets came shortly after U.S. Central Command posted its own tweets about the U.S. and partner nations continuing to attack Islamic State terrorists in Iraq and Syria and one repeating a report that said France will deploy an aircraft carrier to the fight. The hackers titled the

threatened, "We broke into your networks and personal devices and know everything about you. You'll see no mercy infidels. ISIS is already here, we are in your PCs, in each military base." It added: "US soldiers! We're watching you!" The intrusion on the military Twitter account carried the same logo, CyberCaliphate name and photo that appeared on the Albuquerque Journal's website in late December when one of its stories was hacked. □

Obama

Continued from Front

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Barack Obama on Monday proposed strengthening laws against identity theft by requiring notification when consumer information is hacked, providing more free access to credit scores and protecting students' private data.

Obama said identity theft is a growing problem that costs billions of dollars and can "ruin your life."

He said the age of technology and digital innovation has created enormous vulnerabilities for the U.S. and cited the recent hack on Sony Pictures Entertainment as an example.

"This is a direct threat to the economic security of American families and we need to stop it," Obama said in a speech at the Federal Trade Commission. "If we are going to be connected, we need to be protected."

Just as Obama finished speaking, the Twitter and YouTube accounts for U.S. Central Command were taken over by hackers who claimed to be working on behalf of Islamic State militants.

Obama, previewing a push he plans to make in the State of the Union address next week, wants Congress to pass legislation called the Personal Data Notification and Protection Act, which would require companies to inform customers within 30 days if their data has been hacked.

Recent hackings at retailers including Target,

Home Depot and Neiman Marcus have exposed the lack of uniform practices for alerting customers in the event of a breach. The White House has blamed last month's hacking at Sony Pictures Entertainment on North Korea and responded with new sanctions against the isolated nation.

Obama says every state currently has its own policy on when companies must notify consumers of a breach and that there should be a single standard across the country and baseline protections across industries. The legislation would also make it a crime to sell customers' identities overseas.

Obama also called for more free access to all consumer credit rating services. While customers can get annual credit reports free once a year, FICO credit scores typically cost money to obtain, although some banks have been offering them free to customers.

He also wants to prevent companies from selling student data to third parties and from using information collected in school to engage in targeted advertising.

The Student Digital Privacy Act would prohibit companies from selling student data to third parties, a move spurred by the increased use of technology in schools that can scoop up personal information.

A White House official said the proposed bill is based on a California statute pushed by Common Sense Media, a group that promotes privacy. □

Paul Ryan says not running for president in 2016

S. OHLEMACHER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Rep. Paul Ryan announced Monday that he will not run for president in 2016, instead focusing on building his resume in Congress.

Ryan was the Republican candidate for vice president in 2012. There had been much speculation about his ambitions for 2016. But with the start of the new Congress last week, Ryan became chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over taxes, trade, pensions and health care.

"After giving it a lot of thought, I've decided not to run for president," Ryan said in a statement. "Our work at the House Ways and Means Committee over the next few years will be crucial to moving America forward, and my job as chairman deserves undivided attention."

Running for president as a member of the House would be a daunting task. Only one sitting House member has ever been elected president — James A. Garfield in 1880.

Still, Ryan has a national following. He is a favorite among conservatives for developing detailed plans for reining in federal spending. Those plans, however, have made him a villain among many Democrats and liberal groups.



In this July 2014, photo, Mitt Romney, the former Republican presidential nominee, addresses a crowd of supporters while introducing New Hampshire Senate candidate Scott Brown at a farm in Stratham, N.H. Romney told a small group of Republican donors that he's eying a third run at the White House.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Romney talking to supporters about 3rd White House bid

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his wife reached out to former staff and supporters in key states over the weekend, making contact just hours after shocking many by signaling interest in a third run for the White House.

Romney, who ran unsuccessfully against President Barack Obama in 2012, told a private gathering of

New York-area donors on Friday that he is again seriously exploring running for the White House. The next day, Romney began phoning former backers in Iowa and New Hampshire, the two states that kick off the drawn-out, state-by-state primary process for choosing a nominee.

Romney was the overwhelming front-runner for the Republican nomination at the beginning of the 2012 campaign. This time,

he would join a 2016 field expected to feature more than a dozen Republicans with legitimate White House potential, including several sitting governors and U.S. senators. The Democratic field, in contrast, has a clear early front-runner in former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, even though she has not formally declared her intention to run.

Jim Merrill, a top Romney staffer in New Hampshire

during his 2008 and 2012 campaigns, said he spoke to Romney over the weekend.

"We had a great conversation. He made it clear to me he is seriously considering the race," Merrill said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Romney's move toward the 2016 campaign comes after months on insistence that he would not seek the White House for a third time.

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Father accused of dropping child over bridge in court

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — A man seen throwing his 5-year-old daughter off a bridge refused to answer questions Monday as a judge appointed him a public defender. John Jonchuck had seemed reject a court-appointed attorney last week when he said he wanted

to leave his fate "in the hands of God." Police say 5-year-old Phoebe Jonchuck was likely alive when her father sped past a police officer early Thursday morning, then pulled over to the side of the bridge. The officer could only watch from a distance as John Jonchuck

pulled the girl from the back seat and dropped her to her death in the waters of Florida's Tampa Bay. Jonchuck's own divorce lawyer had warned authorities of his mental state about 12 hours earlier, calling the local sheriff's office for help. Florida's child protection hotline also was

called with a plea for intervention. Deputies met with the father and daughter at a church but found no reason to take the girl away. Child protective investigators decided not to investigate. The director of Florida's Department of Children and Families pledged Mon-

day to do a better job of checking on parents and other caregivers with mental health and substance abuse issues. To start, a "Critical Incident Response Team" will examine the agency's prior interactions with the Jonchuck family, DCF Secretary Mike Carroll said. □

New Mexico officers charged with murder in shooting

RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Two police officers were charged with murder in the March killing of a homeless camper, a shooting that generated sometimes violent protests around the southwestern city of Albuquerque and sparked a federal investigation into a police force that has been found to use excessive force. The shooting occurred during a year when police tactics came under intense scrutiny around the U.S., fueled by the fatal shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri, and the chokehold death of another unarmed man in New York City. Grand juries declined to charge officers in those cases, leading to protests.

Dominique Perez, a member of an elite police squad, and former Detec-

said Monday. Open murder allows prosecutors to pursue either first-degree



In this photo taken from a video shot March 16, 2014, James Boyd, 38, left, is shown during a standoff with officers in the Sandia foothills in Albuquerque, N.M., before police fatally shot him. (AP Photo/Albuquerque PD)

tive Keith Sandy will each face a single count of open murder in the death of 38-year-old James Boyd, Second District Attorney Kari Brandenburg

or second-degree murder charges. Police said Perez and Sandy fatally shot Boyd, who was holding two knives, during an hourslong stand-

off in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains. Video from an officer's helmet camera showed Boyd, who authorities say had struggled with mental illness, appearing to surrender when officers opened fire. Sam Bregman, lawyer for Sandy, told The Associated Press that the charge was "unjustified" and said Sandy did nothing wrong. "Keith, as a police officer, had not only the right, but the duty to defend a fellow officer from a mentally unstable, violent man wielding two knives," Bregman said. Luis Robles, an attorney for Perez, said he was "confident that the facts will vindicate Officer Perez's actions in this case." The FBI is investigating the Boyd shooting, but U.S. authorities have not said if the officers will face federal

charges. Albuquerque officials recently signed an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department to revamp its police agency after a harsh report over excessive force. Under the agreement, Albuquerque police must provide better training for officers and dismantle troubled units. The Boyd shooting — and more than 40 other police shootings since 2010 — sparked a series of protests, including one that forced authorities to fire tear gas at violent demonstrators and another that shut down a City Council meeting. Brandenburg filed the counts via criminal information, which allows her to charge the officers without presenting evidence to a grand jury. □

Zimmerman denies throwing bottle at ex-girlfriend

MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Former neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman became angry and threw a wine bottle at his ex-girlfriend when she tried to break up with him, his latest run-in with police since he was acquitted of murdering unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin in 2013, according to a police re-

port released Monday. Zimmerman denied throwing the bottle and disputed her claim that he destroyed the woman's phone last week, according to the report. Instead, Zimmerman said, he was only trying to prevent her from entering his home. In 2013, Zimmerman was acquitted of a second-degree murder charge for shooting Martin in a gated communi-

ty in Florida, which sparked protests around America. The U.S. Justice Department has yet to say whether it will file federal civil rights charges against Zimmerman, who said he shot Martin in self-defense during a confrontation in February 2012. Relatives of Martin accused Zimmerman of racially profiling the teen. On Friday, Zimmerman was arrested and charged with

aggravated assault. He was released Saturday on \$5,000 bond. Zimmerman didn't respond to a message left on his phone Monday by The Associated Press. Officers patrolling the neighborhood where Zimmerman lives last week heard the sound of glass shattering, and then saw the former girlfriend drive out of the driveway. They

pulled her over for a traffic stop a few streets away because she didn't have her lights on. She explained that Zimmerman became angry after she told him she didn't want to take the relationship further, and they also argued over a painting she had that he wanted returned. Zimmerman made threats and threw the wine bottle, which didn't hit her, she said. □

American Leisure:

Downhill resorts begin to embrace cross-country skiing

KAREN SCHWARTZ

Associated Press

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) —

Driving north into the self-titled Ski Town USA in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the first ski area one passes isn't the famed downhill resort, but a new center for cross-country skiing.

The 5 miles of groomed beginner trails are operated by the same corporation that runs the Alpine resort — and there in a microcosm is the latest evolution of skiing.

Trying to hold onto skier dollars as visitors seek more options, ski resorts have branched into snowshoeing, sleigh rides, and increasingly, cross-country skiing.

Jeff Knight, a 49-year-old novice snowboarder from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has visited Steamboat a number of times over the past four years, but had never considered cross-country skiing, also called Nordic skiing, until he spotted the trails while driving.

"We noticed it from the street and then called," said Knight, an electrical contractor. "We love snowshoeing and when we found out that Haymaker converted the golf course into a Nordic track, we thought it would be a great thing to add to the repertoire." More than 40 percent of the people who cross-country skied in the 2013-2014 season were also Alpine downhill skiers, according to the SnowSports Industries America (SIA) trade association.

"More Alpine resorts are offering cross country skiing as alternative activity to those who want a break from Alpine," said Reese Brown, the SIA's Nordic director.

"For years, Nordic had the stereotype of that grizzly frozen guy in the woods or the perfect athlete collapsing at the finish line," he said. "Now we're starting to see people in between." Part of the reason for the crossover is an aging population looking for something

fun to do while their children or friends ski downhill, according to Ryan Green, the Nordic division manager for Rossignol.

In Knight's case, his 47-year-old wife, Pam, is only an occasional skier, and on this trip was recovering from shoulder surgery and didn't want to risk taking a spill on the downhill slopes.

Cross-country skiing "is a way to allow her to enjoy the snow as well," he explained.

Green also speculated that the efficiency of today's gondolas and chair lifts allows people to ski more runs per day, meaning they may exhaust their interest in exploring the mountain, or just plain exhaust themselves. By the end of a weeklong vacation, they might want a different activity.

Though the city of Steamboat was already home to at least three cross-country facilities, the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp. — like dozens of other ski resorts nationwide — decided to enter the Nordic market last season in a partnership to run the winter facility at Haymaker, only a five minute drive from the slopes.

It may seem counterintuitive to have guests forgo a \$125 downhill lift ticket for a \$20 Nordic one, but it still keeps the business in-house. Steamboat even tried running a shuttle service from the base of the ski hill last year, but found that guests preferred to come and go at their own pace.

Birgitta Lindgren, who runs the Nordic operation at Haymaker, said the typical guest spends a full day, with a lesson in the morning, lunch at the clubhouse, then skiing on the trails in the afternoon.

For those interested in giving cross-country skiing a try, here are some things to consider:

—Dress in layers and don't wear cotton. It will absorb the sweat and you'll get chilled.

—Decide if you want to ski classic or skate ski. Classic,



In this January, 2015 photo, a skier enjoys the trails at the Nordic Center at the Haymaker Golf Course in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp., which also runs the famed downhill resort seen in the background expanded into cross country skiing last season as a new offering for guests.

(AP Photo/Karen Schwartz)

or traditional, is the better option for those who aren't especially athletic or fearless. The skis have some friction so the skier has a sense of control. Skate skiing is an exciting choice for those

who like speed and want a real workout. The motion is similar to ice skating on slippery skis.

—Take a lesson, as it will shorten the learning curve. The Knights took an hour-

long lesson, and loved it. With a week to go in their 11-day vacation, Knight said they were already planning to go cross-country skiing at least three more times. □

RED FISH

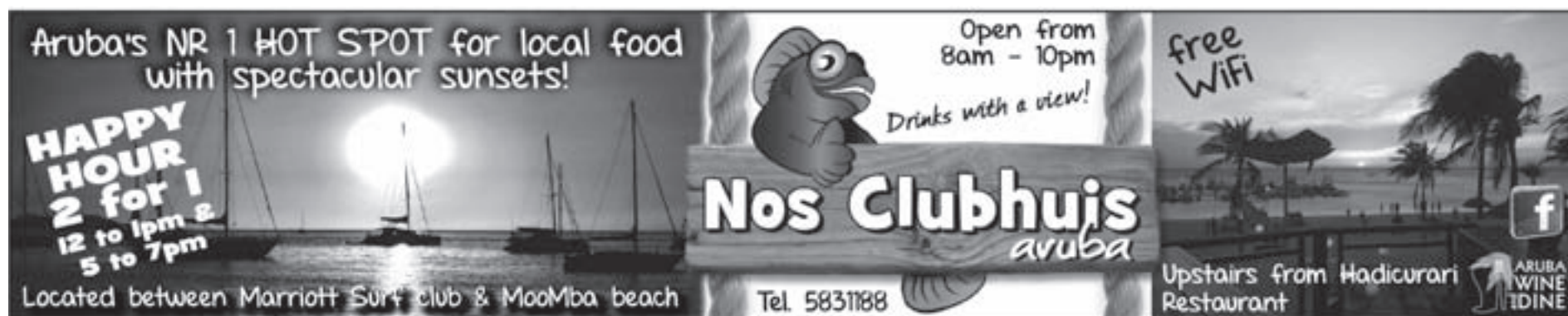
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• ½ Lb Fresh Shrimp \$15.40	• Pan fried Lobster 6oz \$20.00
• 1 Lb Fresh Shrimp \$25.70	• Filet Mignon 6oz. Angus \$18.30
• 1 Lb Fish & Shrimps \$25.70	• Chicken Sate \$10.85
• Calco (conch) & Shrimp \$25.15 in creole or garlic sauce	
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Hot Wheels: Top cars unveiled at Detroit auto show

DETROIT (AP) — The North American International Auto Show begins this week in Detroit with media and industry previews. It opens to the public Jan. 17. Here are some of the new cars and experimental concept vehicles unveiled at the show:

— **FORD GT:** Ford stunned the crowd with its new GT, a high-performance supercar. The lightweight, carbon fiber GT has a

Hours of Le Mans. Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford says the new GT will go on sale late next year, first in the U.S. Production will be limited. Pricing will be announced later, but Bill Ford says it will in the range of other exotic supercars like the \$200,000 Lamborghini Gallardo.

— **ACURA NSX:** The production version of Acura's NSX got a boost from Jerry Seinfeld, who was in Detroit pro-

workers will build the car in Marysville, Ohio. Acura plans to start accepting orders starting this summer and the first NSXs are expected to be on the road later in the year. The starting price is seen in the mid-\$150,000 range.

— **ALFA ROMEO 4C SPIDER:** A convertible version of the 4C coupe with a removable carbon-fiber hard top. It has a 1.75-liter turbocharged engine that

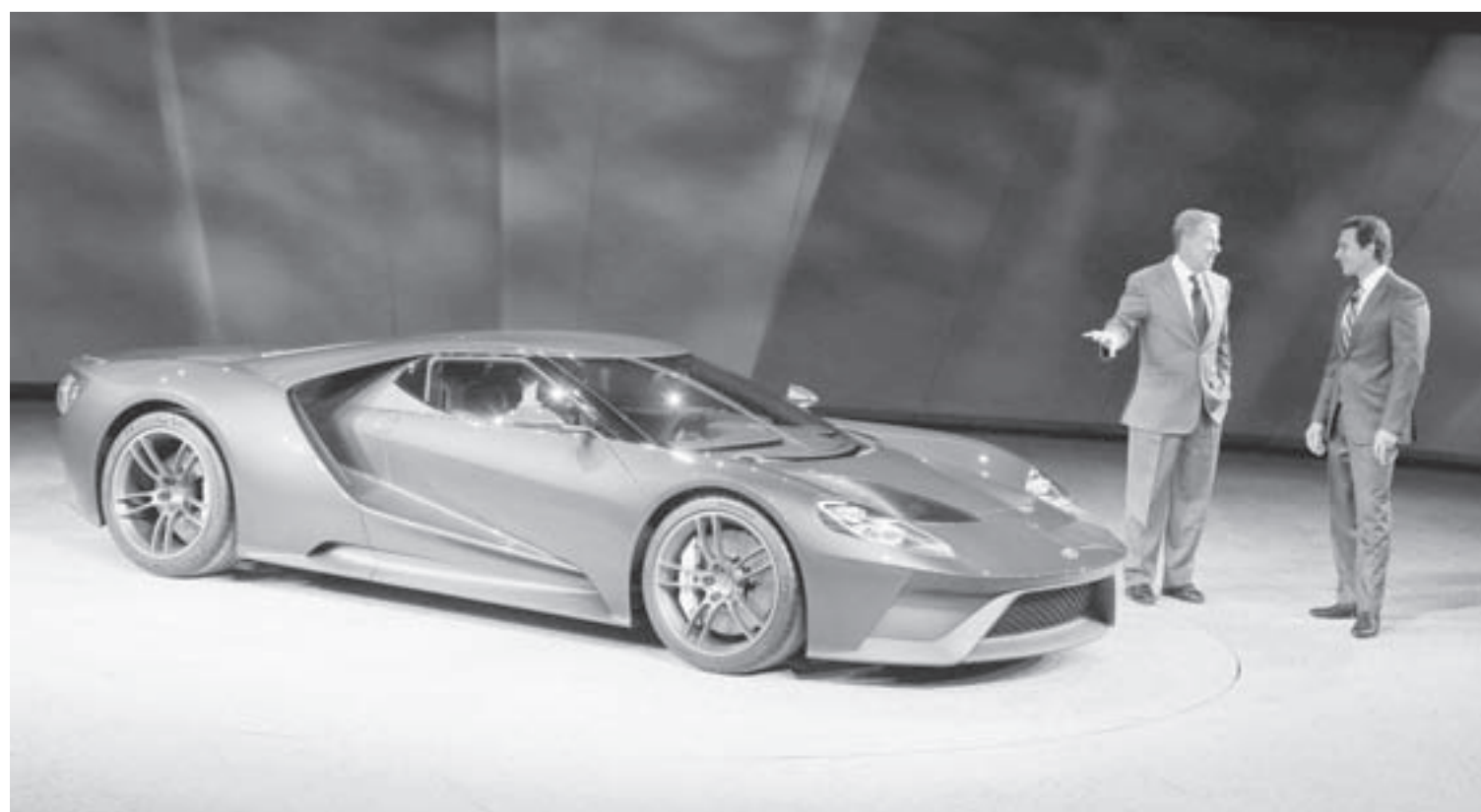
new offerings, including the 911 Targa 4 GTS that packs 430 horsepower and promises zero-to-60 mph acceleration in 4.1 seconds — a hair faster than the current Targa S model. The sports car maker also showed off a Turbo S version of its Cayenne that it says completes the new range of offerings of the SUV, bringing 507 horsepower to the table.

— **VOLKSWAGEN CROSS COUPE GTE CONCEPT:** It's

276-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 and two electric motors, which can power the car in electric mode for up to 20 miles or can combine with the gas engine for a total of 355 horsepower.

— **MERCEDES GLE450 AMG SPORT COUPE/ AMG GLE63 COUPE:** Mercedes takes on the BMW X6 SUV with its four-door GLE Coupe, a crossover version of the midsize E-Class sedan. It has a coupe-like roofline and a wide, tough stance. In the U.S., the GLE 450 AMG 4Matic Coupe will go on sale with a 362-horsepower V6, a nine-speed transmission and all-wheel drive. It's Mercedes' first AMG sports model, and promises features such as variable controls depending on road conditions at a lower price point than the traditional AMG. At the top of the line is the Mercedes-AMG GLE63 S Coupe, powered by a 577-horsepower, 5.5-liter V8. Look for both versions in the U.S. in August.

— **MERCEDES-BENZ F015 CONCEPT, C450 AMG 4MATIC, C350 PLUG-IN HYBRID:** Mercedes is taking the idea of a self-driving car to a new, luxurious level with the F015. The car resembles a silver capsule and made its debut at the consumer electronics show in Las Vegas. It's on display in Detroit as the automaker pushes into what Dieter Zetsche, leader of Mercedes-Benz, calls "the hottest next wave" in the auto industry. The roomy, lounge-like interior is loaded with high-resolution touch screens and offers an adjustable seating system with four rotating chairs that allow the occupants to sit face to face (like in the days of horse-drawn carriages, Zetsche notes). □



Ford Motor Co., Executive Chairman Bill Ford, left, and President and COO Mark Fields stand next to the new Ford GT during the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 in Detroit.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

twin-turbocharged 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 engine that produces more than 600 horsepower. The two-seater has deep, dramatic scoops in the hood and the sides and advanced aerodynamics, including a deployable rear spoiler. It's Ford's first GT in more than a decade and one of 12 new Ford performance vehicles coming to market by 2020. The GT honors the 50th anniversary of the original GT40's 1966 victory in the 24

hours of Le Mans. Featuring a twin-turbocharged V-6 engine and a three-electric motor hybrid system, it promises total power output of more than 550 horsepower. In a video before the car was revealed, Seinfeld and fellow comedian Jay Leno joked about who would be getting the first one. The NSX can run in four modes that offer different performances, as well as variations in the engine's sound level. A team of 100

puts out 237 horsepower mated to a six-speed dual-clutch transmission. The Spider and the 4C will be difficult to get. FiatChrysler says only 3,000 will be built by hand in Italy, and fewer than half of those will be convertibles. Pricing hasn't been announced, but expect the Spider to run between \$60,000 and \$85,000.

— **PORSCHE 911 TARGA 4 GTS and CAYENNE TURBO S:** Porsche unveiled a pair of

Volkswagen's third concept previewing a seven-passenger midsize SUV. The goal is to start producing it in the U.S. at the end of 2016. Volkswagen says the five-passenger plug-in hybrid Crosse Coupe GTE, with its upscale, muscular design gives the clearest idea yet of the SUV's styling. Among its most prominent features is a wide, aluminum-framed air inlet below a narrow, two-bar grille. Under the hood is a

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Police: Up to 6 Paris terror suspects may still be at large

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — As many as six members of a terrorist cell involved in the Paris attacks may still be at large, including a man who was seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the slain gunmen, police officials said Monday.

Two French police officials told The Associated Press that authorities were searching the Paris area for the Mini Cooper registered to Hayat Boumeddiene, the widow of Amedy Coulibaly. She is now in Syria, according to Turkish officials.

The French police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss details of the investigation with the news media.

France deployed 10,000 troops to protect sensitive sites — including Jewish schools and neighborhoods — in the wake of the attacks that killed 17 people last week. Brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi, as well as Coulibaly, their friend who claimed ties to Islamic extremists in the Middle East, died Friday in clashes with police.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the manhunt is urgent because “the threat is still present” after the attacks that began Wednesday with 12 people killed at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. A policewoman was killed Thursday, and four people were slain at a kosher supermarket Friday before the gunmen were killed by police in two nearly simultaneous clashes with security forces around Paris. Paris’ Marais district — one of the country’s oldest Jewish neighborhoods — was filled with police and soldiers by midday Monday. About 4,700 of the security forces would be assigned to



Police officers and French army soldiers patrol Rue des Rosiers street, in the heart of Paris Jewish quarter, in Paris, Monday Jan. 12, 2015. France on Monday ordered 10,000 troops into the streets to protect sensitive sites after three days of bloodshed and terror, amid the hunt for accomplices to the attacks that left 17 people and the three gunmen dead.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

protect France’s 717 Jewish schools, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

“A little girl was telling me

earlier that she wanted to live in peace and learn in peace in her school,” Cazeneuve as on a visit to

a Paris Jewish classroom, where the walls were covered with children’s drawings of smiling faces.

“That’s what the government, that’s what the Republic, owes to all the children in France: security in all schools, especially in the schools that could be threatened,” he added.

The children listened and waved both Israeli and French flags.

Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the nationwide deployment of troops would be completed by Tuesday and would focus on the most sensitive locations.

“The work on these attacks, on these terrorist and barbaric acts continues ... because we consider that there are most probably some possible accomplices,” Valls told BFM television.

French police have said the Charlie Hebdo attacks were carried out by three people, but only two of those attackers — Cherif and Said Kouachi — have been identified by authorities. □

Afghan officials: Islamic State operating in south

LYNNE O'DONNELL
Associated Press

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan officials confirmed for the first time Monday that the extremist Islamic State group is active in the south, recruiting fighters, flying black flags and, according to some sources, even battling Taliban militants.

The sources, including an Afghan general and a provincial governor, said a man identified as Mullah Abdul Rauf was actively recruiting fighters for the group, which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Gen. Mahmood Khan, the deputy commander of the army’s 215 Corps, said that within the past week residents of a number of districts in the southern

Helmand province have said Rauf’s representatives are fanning out to recruit people.

“A number of tribal leaders, jihadi commanders and some ulema (religious council members) and other people have contacted me to tell me that Mullah Rauf had contacted them and invited them to join him,” Khan said.

But he said the Taliban, which is active across Helmand and controls some districts, have warned people not to contact Rauf.

“People are saying that he has raised black flags and even has tried to bring down white Taliban flags in some areas,” said Saifullah Sanginwal, a tribal leader in Sangin district. “There

are reports that 19 or 20 people have been killed” in fighting between the Taliban and the IS group, he added.

Rauf was a corps commander during the Taliban’s 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan, according to Amir Mohammad Akundzada, the governor of Nimroz province neighboring Helmand. Akundzada said he is related to Rauf but has not seen him for almost 20 years.

Both Khan and Akundzada said Rauf was apprehended after the fall of the Taliban in the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and was detained for years at Guantanamo Bay.

Khan and Akundzada suggested Rauf may have fallen out with the leaders

of the Afghan Taliban after spending time in the Pakistani city of Quetta, where Afghan officials and analysts believe senior Taliban leaders are based.

A video released online Saturday purports to show militants from both Afghanistan and Pakistan pledging support to IS.

But Akundzada said IS was not likely to gain traction with ordinary Afghans. “People who want to fight in Afghanistan just create new names — one day they are wearing white clothes (of the Taliban) and the next day they have black clothes and call themselves Daesh, but they are the same people,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for the IS group. □

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is greeted by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shortly after arriving in Islamabad, Pakistan Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Kerry arrived in Pakistan on Monday to press the country's leadership to step up the fight against extremists and eliminate safe havens for terror groups along the Afghan border. (AP Photo/Rick Wilking, Pool)

Kerry in Pakistan to shore up ties

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Pakistan on Monday to press the country's leadership to step up the fight against extremists and eliminate safe havens for terror groups along the Afghan border. He was welcomed by Pakistan's foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz and headed directly into meetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Kerry is making the case for more robust efforts against all extremist groups in the country, particularly after last month's devastating Taliban attack on a Peshawar school that killed 150 people, most of them children.

Pakistan has boosted operations against violent extremists in its recent months, notably following the Peshawar attack that stunned the nation. But U.S. officials traveling with Kerry said Washington wants to ensure that there is a "real and sustained effort" to limit the abilities of the Pakistani and Afghan

Taliban, the Haqqani Network and Lashkar e Tayyiba, which pose direct threats to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, as well as to American interests. Aziz hinted that Kerry might go to Peshawar on Tuesday to pay his respects to the victims, saying it would be a nice gesture, but the State Department declined to comment on Kerry's plans. Underscoring the importance of the security aspect of Kerry's trip, he was being joined in his meetings with Gen. Lloyd Austin, the chief of the U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East and South Asia. Pakistan has been on edge ever since the Dec. 16 attack on the Peshawar school that was claimed by the Pakistani Taliban as retaliation for an army operation launched in June in the North Waziristan tribal area. In response, Pakistan has boosted operations in the rugged tribal areas, reinstated the death penalty for terrorists and moved to try civilian terror suspects in mili-

tary courts.

Kerry is expected to announce on Tuesday that \$250 million in previously appropriated money will be given to emergency relief efforts in the tribal areas, mainly north Waziristan.

The extremists, however, have vowed to keep up attacks and just on Friday, a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a mosque in Rawalpindi, next to Islamabad, killing five people.

Pakistan faces numerous obstacles in combatting extremism, not least from networks of hardline Islamist seminaries and religious schools that promote radical ideology, and a flawed judicial system that has been criticized for an inability to prosecute and convict terror suspects. India reacted sharply last month when an anti-terrorism court granted bail to the chief defendant on trial for the 2008 attack that killed 166 people in the Indian city of Mumbai due to lack of evidence. The suspect has since been rearrested. □

Pakistan school reopening following Taliban massacre

ZARAR KHAN
REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani children returned on Monday to the school where Taliban gunmen killed 150 of their classmates and teachers last month, clutching their parents' hands tightly in a poignant symbol of perseverance despite the horrors they had endured.

It was the first time the school had reopened since the assault, and security was tight. The nation has been reeling from the Dec. 16 terrorist attack in Peshawar — one of the worst Pakistan has experienced. The violence carried out by seven Taliban militants heaped pressure on authorities to end the stubborn insurgency that kills and maims thousands every year.

The massacre also horrified parents across the nation and prompted officials to implement tighter security at schools.

For Peshawar parents like Abid Ali Shah, Monday morning was especially painful as he struggled to get his sons ready for school, something his wife used to do. She was a teacher at the school and was killed in the violence. Both of his sons attended the school. The youngest was shot in the head but survived after the militants thought he was dead.

"A hollowness in my life is getting greater. I am missing my wife," Shah said. He said he had wanted to shift his children to a different school or city but decided not to because they still have to take exams this spring: "Everything is ruined here, everything."

His older son, Sitwat Ali Shah, 17, said that when he saw his brother break down in tears as they prepared to go to school he did as well. Sitwat said both he and his brother have trouble sleeping and often wake up, crying for their mother.

"Those who have done all this to all of us cannot be called humans," Sitwat said, adding that he still wanted to go back to school and eventually become an air force officer.

A ceremony was held at the school to mark its reopening, and classes are to resume on Tuesday. Security was tight, part of a countrywide effort to boost safety measures at schools in the wake of the attack. Schools around Pakistan have raised their boundary walls, added armed guards and installed metal detectors, although many have questioned why it took such a horrible attack to focus attention on school safety.

A psychiatrist in Peshawar, Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, said troubled parents have been calling to ask how they should discuss the attack with their children and how to respond when their kids have questions about the violence: "It's a time of great depression and tension for all parents," he said.

The government has stepped up military operations in the tribal areas, reinstated the death penalty and allowed military courts to try civilians — all attempts to crack down on terrorism. □



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Ukraine meeting in Berlin ends without significant progress

DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The foreign ministers of Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France were unable to make enough progress in closed-door meetings Monday on the Ukrainian crisis to move ahead with a higher-level summit.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said their four-hour meeting was a "very open exchange" but did not produce the results needed for the countries to go ahead with a meeting of their leaders in Kazakhstan that had been proposed for Thursday.

He said representatives from their ministries would meet instead in the coming days to see if they could bridge differences, and raised the possibility that the foreign ministers could meet again after that.

"If there is progress made at that level in the coming days, then we are prepared to meet again next week and resume this discussion we began today," he told reporters.

Steinmeier called the Berlin meeting following a flurry of diplomacy, including a brief weekend encounter in Paris between the German, French and Ukrainian leaders.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also has spoken by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin and met the president of Kazakhstan, the possible host of a four-way summit on Ukraine.

Merkel and Steinmeier are pushing for progress on implementing a much-violated Ukraine peace deal drawn up in September. But Berlin says a substantial narrowing of differences between Ukraine and Russia is needed for a summit to take place.

Following the Steinmeier's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, the four issued a joint statement calling for the contact group of Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE to meet to try and make progress on implementing the



German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, second left, points as he welcomes his counterparts from France, Laurent Fabius, right, Russia, Sergey Lavrov, left, and Ukraine, Pavlo Klimkin, second right, for a meeting on the situation in Ukraine in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. (AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

September peace deal. They said this must include "the creation of the relevant

conditions for an effective cease-fire, an agreement on modalities for the de-

livery of humanitarian aid, and the continuation of the release of detainees." □

South Korea pushes North to 'stop hesitating' on talks

CHOE SANG-HUN
© 2015 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea - President Park Geun-hye urged North Korea on Monday to come to the negotiating table to discuss projects of reconciliation on the divided Korean Peninsula, like reunions of families separated during the Korean War. The South Korean president's appeal followed a New Year's Day speech by Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader, in which he said he was ready to meet Park - but only if the mood was right.

"North Korea should stop hesitating any more and accept calls for dialogue," Park said Monday during her nationally televised New Year's speech.

In recent months, her government has repeatedly proposed dialogue with Pyongyang. But the North has not responded, instead accusing the South of raising tensions by allowing activists to use large helium balloons to drop anti-North Korean leaflets on the North and continuing joint war games with the U.S. military. □



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Somber gatherings mark 5th anniversary of Haiti quake

DAVID MCFADDEN
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)
 — Somber Haitians gath-

neighbors while shattering much of the overcrowded capital and surrounding area in one of the worst

slacks and dress shirts attended a Catholic Mass just after dawn at a new church built alongside the

Air neighborhood in downtown Port-au-Prince.

"This is the anniversary of the day I can never forget," Gladys Lambard, who lost her husband and sister in the earthquake, said as she walked into the church arm-in-arm with her 14-year-old daughter. "The sadness of that day marked me forever."

On the northern outskirts of Port-au-Prince, where authorities quickly buried thousands of people in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, President Michel Martelly and the first lady placed white flowers before a large chunk of rubble set on a concrete pedestal. The burial area is being developed as a memorial for those who lost their lives.

"The life of the people changed in 35 seconds that day," Martelly said before a small audience of government officials, ambassadors and journalists. "But in the days that followed, solidarity came from everywhere."

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck just before 5

p.m. on Jan. 12, 2010, collapsing concrete buildings by the tens of thousands in a densely populated city. The government later said more than 300,000 people were killed but the exact toll is unknown because there was no systematic effort to count bodies amid the chaos and destruction. Following the massive earthquake, teams poured in from around the world to help Haitians rescue those trapped in rubble and treat vast numbers of people wounded in the disaster.

Carine Joiceus, a 24-year-old customs department worker who attended the memorial Mass in Bel Air, had to have one of her arms amputated near the shoulder after she was pinned by falling rubble at a university. She has since had two children and says she has learned to live with her disability.

"I remember just crying the first year after it happened," Joiceus said. "But since then, I'm moving ahead with my life and thinking of the future."

For the country as a whole, the recovery has been uneven.

The United Nations says Haiti has received more than 80 percent of about \$12.45 billion pledged by more than 50 countries and multilateral agencies since the disaster, a combination of humanitarian assistance, recovery aid and disaster relief. Parts of the capital are awash in new construction and the number of people in dismal tent camps has dropped from around 1.5 million after the quake to around 80,000.



Haitians attend a Mass marking the 5th anniversary of the January 2010 earthquake, in a new building next to the ruins of the National Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Somber Haitians gathered early Monday to remember the devastating earthquake that left much of the capital and surrounding area in ruins in one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

ered early Monday to remember the devastating January 2010 earthquake that killed relatives and

natural disasters of modern times.

Hundreds of women in white dresses and men in

ruined National Cathedral, the towering remnants of broken walls still dominating the impoverished Bel

TV network: Fidel Castro wrote letter to Maradona

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro on Monday sent soccer legend Diego Maradona a letter written to quash rumors of the Cuban leader's death, state-run television network Telesur reported. It was the first reported word from Castro in nearly three months.

The network funded by Venezuela, Cuba and other allied government showed photos of Maradona with the letter signed

by Castro, 88. Telesur revealed nothing about the contents of the letter, but said it rebutted rumors he had died.

Telesur is broadcast on state television in Cuba, where Maradona has been filming episodes of a television show he hosts.

No images were shown of Castro, who has not appeared in public for more than a year, prompting widespread speculation

about his health, and even recent rumors of his death on social media.

A serious illness forced Castro to step down from duties as president in 2006, handing over leadership to his younger brother Raul.

The new wave of speculation about Fidel Castro's health was prompted in part by his failure to comment after the U.S. and Cuba declared on Dec. 17 that they would move to

restore full diplomatic relations broken a half century ago.

The most recent official photographs of Castro came out of a private meeting with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Aug. 21. He was also photographed with the Chinese and Russian presidents in July. Castro was last heard from on Oct. 18, when he published an editorial about Ebola.



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PALM BEACH - The Blue Lobster Restaurant, in its quest for innovation and keeping in mind its appreciated clientele, is now expanding its culinary options. Even more delicious and succulent plates are now available to please the exquisite palate of the sophisticated patrons choosing The Blue Lobster for their special dinners. Therefore beside the 25 lobster dishes being offered, it now offers

a fantastic culinary journey to Italian cuisine. Months of research, long nights, hard team work and lots of love were the principal ingredients to be able to come up with this fantastic and extraordinary selection of pastas and Italian soups that were unveiled to our patrons on Thursday, January 8th, 2015. Our research went far - all the way to Italy - where Mr.



Vinzenzo Gargioli, founder of L'Arcangelo Restaurant on the outskirts of Rome, graciously and voluntarily contributed among others, his famous 'polpetto di carni' (meat balls) recipe, which The Blue Lobster is presenting in their new and fantastic culinary venture. Mr. Castaño, proud owner of The Blue Lobster publicly wants to send his special thanks to Bruno Dandini, Jean Pietro Virello, and Vinzenzo Gargioli, who contributed to this work, most important with their personal recipes. Mr. Castaño emphasizes that The Blue Lobster Restaurant is a seafood restaurant and always will be, adding his restaurant is where the whole family can eat and have fun at the same time and enjoy the dishes they like the most. Therefore, if your group craves lobster, or a good steak, Italian or even vegetarian, then everybody will find dishes they love at The Blue Lobster Restaurant! Mr. Castaño says that it is not the intention to become a 'food mart,' but to become a 'one-stop' restaurant for everyone who wants to enjoy a great din-

ner where quality and service goes hand in hand. Mr. Castaño says: "Our four sections menu will definitely please every palate and will for sure create an out of this world culinary experience." The Lobster/Seafood Sec-

tion offers over 30 main dishes all with fresh lobster and fish brought in by the local and sometimes by foreigner fishermen coming from the neighboring Caribbean islands. The Meat Section offers a humble list of choices, enough to please the experts offering high quality top of the line meats like Black Angus, US Prime etc. The Italian Section, wonderful Italian Pastas made to perfection with real Italian recipes, with dishes like Polpetto Di Carni, Minestrone Di La Nona, Nova Scotia Salmon Carpaccio, Sicilian Zuppa Di Mare, etc. The Creole Section, a dream of many tourists when visiting a place is to be able to sample the local food with its ethnic flavors and simple rustic presentation. The Blue Lobster Restaurant will take you into that fantastic trip, where very local dishes like, 'Keshi Jena,' 'Keri-Keri,' 'Balchi Pisca,' 'Cabrito Stoba,' and many more dishes will be served with the typical and very local Funchi Hasa (Fried polenta) Bana Hasa, (Fried sweet plantain) Pan Bati (local style pancake). The Blue Lobster Restaurant additionally has a kids menu, vegetarian dishes and much more, that is why Mr Castaño says that The Blue Lobster shall be in Aruba, the 'one-stop' restaurant for all families! So, go for lobster but find also Italian, meats, and Creole all under the same roof! Quality you can taste, along with professional service awaits you and your family or friends at The Blue Lobster Restaurant! □



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Alhydran through the eyes of a professional

Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. As a specialist, she has different skin products to choose from, but *Alhydran* is her #1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive, and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, and people who have undergone radiation therapy or have general scar tissue, acne, or excessive hair. All this can be caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin. The secret to *Alhydran* is that it regulates the moisture levels of the skin continuously in an unprecedented way. A very high dosage of pure Aloe Vera gel delivers the hydration, and pure Vitamin C, Vitamin E, and Jojoba oil prolong the activity. Patients can actually see and feel their skin healing."

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- Aruba Aloe Divi Links (Divi Aruba Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Tamarijn (Tamarijn Aruba Hotel)
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ORANJESTAD - We would like to introduce Aramis to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. We have never seen a donkey that was so easily accepted by the herd as Aramis. Normally it takes quite a while before the herd accepts a newcomer, but with Aramis and his friend Ninja it went without a hitch. We only separated them for one night, but one noticed that the herd was not opposed to this gorgeous, dark grey donkey. So put into the herd, and loving every moment at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Aramis can look forward to staying a long, long time with us, as he is just four years old. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they

love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are



expensive customers for the sanctuary.

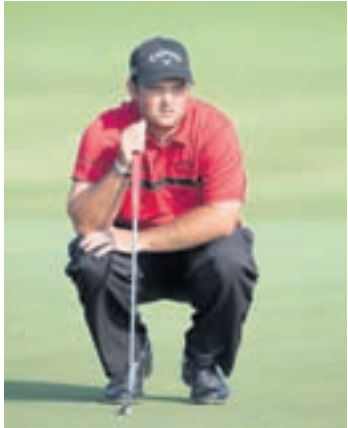
The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale

of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at

the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am

until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □



Patrick Reed lines up his putt on the the 18th green during a play off round against Jimmy Walker at the Tournament of Champions golf tournament, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

Reed rallies to beat Walker in Kapalua playoff

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

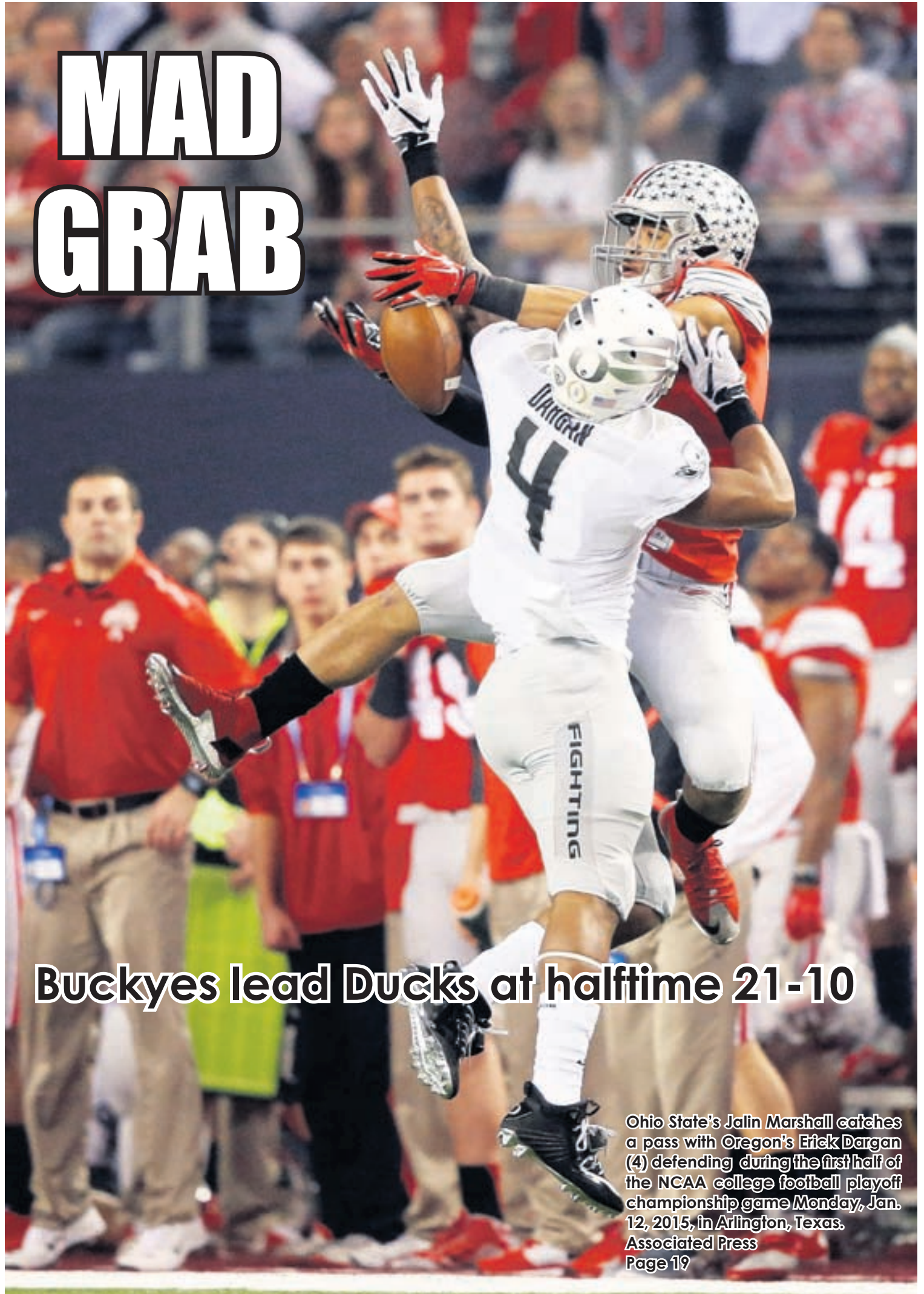
KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Four shots behind with four holes to play, Patrick Reed made two birdies and holed out from 80 yards for an eagle Monday, and then closed out his unlikely rally by making an 18-foot birdie putt to beat Jimmy Walker in a playoff at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

The U.S. PGA Tour started a new year without a host of big names, but got a compelling finish at Kapalua. Reed charged back into the picture with his eagle on the 16th hole, a shot that spun back toward the hole and hit the pin before dropping. After three-putting from 100 feet just off the green for bogey on the 17th, he two-putted from 80 feet for birdie on the par-5 closing hole for a 6-under 67.

Then it was up to Walker, trying to become the fifth player to win both PGA Tour events in Hawaii.

Continued on page 19

MAD GRAB



Buckyes lead Ducks at halftime 21-10

Ohio State's Jalin Marshall catches a pass with Oregon's Erick Dargan (4) defending during the first half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press
Page 19



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NBA Capsules

Gasol, Randolph lead Grizzlies to 2OT win

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Marc Gasol scored the first seven points in the second overtime, Zach Randolph had 27 points and 17 rebounds and the Memphis Grizzlies outlasted the Phoenix Suns 122-110 on Sunday night.

Gasol finished with 12 points to help Memphis end a two-game losing streak. Mike Conley added 25 points and eight assists and Courtney Lee had 18 points.

Isaiah Thomas led Phoenix with 20 points, but had a costly turnover trying to get the ball into the front court with the Suns leading late in the first overtime.

Markieff Morris added 17 points, Alex Len had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and P.J. Tucker, Eric Bledsoe and Marcus Morris had 11 points apiece.

Tucker's layup tied it 101 with 5.9 left in regulation. The Grizzlies begged for basket interference, saying Bledsoe pulled the net as the ball was bouncing on the rim.

Bledsoe's 3-pointer with 33.3 seconds left in the first overtime gave the Suns a 108-106 lead. The Suns stopped the Grizzlies on the next possession, but Thomas gave away the ball and Lee — fouled by Dragic — made two free throws with 16.2 left. Bledsoe then missed at the buzzer, forcing the second extra period.

The Suns trailed by 16 in the second half and 14 early in the fourth quarter.

TRAIL BLAZERS 106, LAKERS 94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 17 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, leading Portland past Los Angeles.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Kaman added 12 rebounds and nine assists in his fourth start of the season and second against his former team. The Blazers have won 27 of their last 32 games and are a season-best 22 over .500 at 30-8.

Kobe Bryant was rested by Lakers coach Byron Scott for the sixth time in



Memphis Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph (50) shoots between Phoenix Suns forward Markieff Morris (11) and center Alex Len (21) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

11 games and second game in a row. The NBA's third-leading career scorer, playing in his 19th season at age 36, played in only six games last season due to a torn Achilles and a fracture in his left knee.

Wesley Johnson returned to the Lakers' lineup and scored 17 points after missing three games because of a strained hip flexor.

KINGS 103, CAVALIERS 84
SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 13 rebounds and Sacramento handed Cleveland its seventh loss in eight games with LeBron James out with a strained back and sore left knee.

Rudy Gay added 23 points for Sacramento. Darren Collison had 16, and Carl Landry 11.

Kevin Love led the Cavaliers with 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Kyrie Irving scored 14 of his 21 points in the first quarter and had seven assists.

Timofey Mozgov, acquired from Denver last week, had 14 points and 12 rebounds.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, right, has her wrist taped by a trainer during a break in her match against Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Wozniacki retired from the match due to the injury.

Associated Press

Stosur beats Safarova in 3 sets in 1st round in Sydney

SYDNEY (AP) — Samantha Stosur overcame some home-crowd jitters to beat Lucie Safarova 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-3 Monday in the first round of the Sydney International, and Caroline Wozniacki's Australian Open preparations took a hit when she was forced to withdraw with a wrist injury. Stosur saved three break points to take a 3-2 lead in the third set before break-

ing Safarova again when the Czech player double-faulted on back-to-back points.

"It was relatively important win," the Australian said. "It was good to step up and win the match after what happened last week, and I am very happy with it."

Stosur, who won the 2011 U.S. Open, has never been past the fourth round at the Australian Open. And

she has struggled at other tournaments Down Under, too. Last week at the Brisbane International, Stosur lost to Varvara Lepchenko 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the first round after leading 5-1 in the third set.

Stosur will next play Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic in the second round after Wozniacki withdrew from their match with a left wrist injury.

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Ohio St answer Oregon, take 21-10 halftime lead

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) --

Ezekiel Elliott ran 33 yards for a touchdown to cap a 97-yard drive, Cardale Jones accounted for two scores and Ohio State led Oregon 21-10 at halftime of the national championship game Monday night.

Related Stories

Ohio State keeps on running to national title game
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 The Associated Press

Buckeyes rally and Ducks rout in college semis
 Reuters

Ohio State fans mock SEC at national championship game
 SB Nation

The fourth-seeded Buckeyes answered Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota's scoring pass on the opening drive of the first title game under the four-team playoff system.

The second-seeded Ducks faced their biggest deficit of the season at 21-7 in a bid for their first national championship, with Mariota trying to become the seventh player since 1996 to win the Heisman and a

national title in the same season. Florida State's Jameis Winston did it last season.

Slightly more than half the crowd at the oversized \$1.2 billion home of the Dallas Cowboys was filled with red-clad Ohio State fans hoping for the Buckeyes' fifth national title, but first under coach Urban Meyer. Jones, Ohio State's third starting quarterback this season, threw consecutive 26-yard passes, the first when the Buckeyes faced third down from their 5-yard line on their first scoring drive.

That pass was to Corey Smith and the second went to Jalin Marshall, who later converted a fourth-and-2 on a shovel pass that picked up the first down by the nose of the football. Elliott's scoring run came two plays later.

It was the second-longest scoring drive of the season for the Buckeyes.

Elliott, who had 98 yards rushing in the first half, ran 17 yards to the Oregon 1, setting up Jones' scoring pass to Nick Vannett for a 14-7 lead with 1:08 left in the first.

The Buckeyes had two



Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott runs during the first half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Oregon Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

promising drives end with fumbles in the second quarter before Jones scored on a plunge inches from the goal line after his run on the previous play was ruled a touchdown but overturned on review. Mariota's 7-yard touchdown pass to Keanon Lowe capped a 75-yard drive to start the game.

The opening drive was kept alive when a run by Mariota initially ruled a fumble recovered by the Buckeyes was overturned on a review that showed his knee down before Curtis Grant stripped the ball. The fast-paced, high-scoring Ducks punted on four of five drives after the quick score - and were a combined 0 of 6 on third and fourth downs - before driving to Aidan Sch-

neider's 26-yard field goal with 48 seconds remaining in the half.

Mariota had 71 yards passing on the late field goal

drive and finished the half 18 of 23 for 193 yards.

Jones was 10 of 15 for 171 yards passing and added another 48 on the ground.

Continued from page 17

For the second straight day, Walker didn't make birdie after the 10th hole, and this time it cost him. The only big mistake in regulation was trying to play it safe off the short par-4 14th and hitting a 4-iron into a bunker. He went over the green and made bogey, his first bogey in 33 holes. Walker missed birdie putts inside 10 feet on the next two holes.

He then wasted a good shot at birdie on the 18th when his chip came out soft and he was short on an 18-foot birdie putt. He shot 69 and joined Reed at 21-under 271.

In the playoff, Walker again had the advantage when Reed couldn't come close to reaching the green. Walker, however, hit it right into the rough, and this time the chip came out hot and went over the green. He chipped to 6 feet and never had to putt. □

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AP Explains: The first College Football Playoff

RALPH RUSSO
Associated Press

Oregon and Ohio State play the first College Football Playoff championship game Monday night in Arlington, Texas. The game culminates the first playoff at college football's highest level. Oregon is considered the favorite behind star quarterback Marcus Mariota, who won the Heisman Trophy as college football's best player this season. Ohio State has made it to the championship game despite losing two talented quarterbacks to injuries this season. Here's a brief explanation of the College Football Playoff and how these two teams came to play in it.

A NEW ERA

For decades major college football had no structure when it came to determining a champion. Postseason bowl games were played with little regard to matching the very best teams, and afterward voters in The Associated Press media poll would rank the teams and crown a champ. In the 1990s,

the bowls and conferences tried to organize a true championship game and eventually that led to the creation of the

the season. It was progress, but many fans still felt unsatisfied. Polls and computer rankings were used to pick the teams

leaders of the major college football conferences decided to create a four-team playoff to debut this season. The teams were chosen in December by a selection committee made up of 13 former college football coaches and players and college sports administrators. One major conference, the Big 12, was left out.

HOW THEY GOT HERE

The first national semifinals were held last week at traditional New Year's Day bowls and were the most-watched events in cable TV history. Second-seeded Oregon, Pac-12 Conference champions, beat third-seeded Florida State, the defending national champions, 59-20 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Ohio State, Big Ten Conference champions, was the fourth seed and played top-seeded Alabama on New Year's Day at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The Buckeyes upset the Southeastern Conference champs 42-35 to reach the championship game. □



In this photo taken with a slow shutter speed, the championship trophy is seen before a coaches news conference Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, in Dallas. Oregon plays Ohio State in the championship game on Monday.

Associated Press

Bowl Championship Series. The BCS, as it was known, created a No. 1 vs. No. 2 game to end

and inevitably, with only two spots, deserving teams were left out. Two years ago, the

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Why Dez's catch wasn't a catch in Cowboys-Packers



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) catches a pass against during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, in Green Bay, Wis. The play was reversed. The Packers won 26-21.

Associated Press

The Associated Press
For a league that already has The Catch and The Drive, this incomplete pass may go down as The Reversal.
The Cowboys' Dez Bryant appeared to make spectacular 31-yard catch on fourth down to give Dallas the ball a yard away from the go-ahead touchdown in the final minutes of Sunday's 26-21 divisional round playoff loss to the Green Bay Packers.
Replays showed that Bryant bobbled the ball as he rolled into the end zone, with part of it touching the field. After reviewing the play, officials overturned the call, saying Bryant didn't maintain control all the way to the ground. The rule states: "If a player goes to the ground in the act of catching a pass (with or without contact by an opponent), he must maintain control of the ball throughout the process of contacting the ground, whether in the field

of play or the end zone. If he loses control of the ball, and the ball touches the ground before he regains control, the pass is incomplete. If he regains control prior to the ball touching the ground, the pass is complete."
Bryant said there was never a doubt in his mind that he caught the ball.
"I had possession of the ball coming down. That's possession, right? One, two, reach," Bryant said. "Bam, that's possession."
Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said he thought Bryant got his feet down, then made a move common to the game.
"Dez reached out to the goal line like he's done so many times," Bryant said. "It's a signature play for him. He maintained possession of it throughout, in my opinion."
Green Bay cornerback Sam Shields said the call was a relief on a play that could have been a touchdown at a critical point.

"These playoff games come down to the inches. A good call on the refs. He went up for the ball and made a good catch," Shields said.
Referee Gene Steratore said a couple camera angles showed the ball hitting the ground, then Bryant losing possession.
"At the time he lands and the ball hits the ground, it comes loose as it hits the ground, which would make that incomplete," Steratore said.
"Although he repossesses it, it does contact the ground when he reaches, so the repossession is irrelevant,"
Athletes, celebrities and others quickly weighed in on the ruling.
Odell Beckham Jr., the receiver for the rival Giants who made his share of dazzling catches as a rookie, tweeted: "I by no means cheer for Dallas but I have no idea what or how this not called a catch. This a joke."

The Detroit Lions also chimed in. Their star receiver, Calvin Johnson, had a similar catch reversed in 2010, and they also were stung last week in the wildcard round against the Cowboys when the officials picked up a flag that would have given them a critical fourth-quarter first

down.
They tweeted: "Sorry @dal-lascowboys. We know the feeling," with a link to the Megatron play and the hashtag "CompletingTheProcess."
The NFL has used the Johnson play in explaining the rule to coaches and players. □

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MON-THUR 3:50 | 5:45 | 8:10
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INTO THE WOODS

ANNA KENDRICK | MERYL STREEP

MON-THUR 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
SAT 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45

THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2

HELEN MCCRORY | JEREMY IRVINE

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FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

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SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10

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Cristiano Ronaldo wins FIFA Ballon d'Or award for 2014

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award for 2014 on Monday, earning the title of world's best football player for a third time. He easily beat four-time winner Lionel Messi and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer in a vote of national team captains and coaches from FIFA's 209 member countries, plus selected journalists.

"I want to become one of the greatest players of all time," Ronaldo said through a translator in his acceptance speech. "Of course, this requires a lot of effort and I hope to get there."

Ronaldo received 37.66 percent of total points in the ballot, more than twice as many as Messi, who was second 15.76 percent.

Neuer, who won the World Cup with Germany and the Bundesliga title with Bayern Munich, received 15.72 percent.

Voters chose their top three preferences from a 23-man candidates list.

Ronaldo retained football's highest individual honor after scoring 61 goals for Real Madrid and Portugal last year. His record tally of 17 in a Champions League season helped his club win an unprecedented 10th European Cup title — and overshadowed a relatively



Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal reacts after winning the FIFA Men's soccer player of the year 2014 prize at the FIFA Ballon d'Or awarding ceremony at the Kongresshaus in Zurich, Switzerland, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015.

Associated Press

disappointing World Cup campaign.

Ronaldo was more composed for this widely expected victory than during his tearful speech one year ago when ending Messi's four-year reign. He first won the award for 2008 as a Manchester United player. On hearing his name read out by French great Thierry Henry, Ronaldo closed his eyes, dipped his head and smiled before walking to the stage.

"It has been an unforgettable year," Ronaldo said after taking a deep breath. After helping Real win the Club World Cup last month, the 29-year-old star also unveiled a statue of himself in his home island Madeira. In what has become a Ballon d'Or tradition, Portugal captain Ronaldo did not pick Messi in his top three and Argentina captain Messi ignored Ronaldo on his ballot. Neither selected Neuer.

Germany won the other three major individual awards to compensate for Neuer's defeat.

Joachim Loew was voted coach of the year for guiding the national team to its first World Cup title since 1990, and first major trophy in 18 years.

"It's the icing on the cake," Loew said through a translator. "What would a coach be without a fantastic team? I am nothing without well-trained players."

Loew beat the two club coaches from Madrid: Italian Carlo Ancelotti of Real and Atletico's Diego Simeone from Argentina.

Germany midfielder Nadine Kessler beat two former winners — United States forward Abby Wambach and Marta of Brazil — to be named the best women's player in 2014.

Kessler received 17.52 percent of all voting points, followed by Marta with 14.16 percent and Wambach's 13.33 percent.

A German man also won the coaching award for women's football: Ralf Kellermann was rewarded for leading a Wolfsburg team including Kessler to back-to-back UEFA Champions League titles.

Kellermann defeated Norio Sasaki, the male coach of Japan's Asian Cup winner, and Maren Meinert, who guided Germany to

win the Women's Under-20 World Cup.

Women's football also lost to the men in fan voting for the most beautiful goal, known as the Puskas Award.

James Rodriguez's volley for Colombia against Uruguay at the World Cup beat Ireland forward Stephanie Roche's spectacular strike for Peamount United in an amateur domestic league match in October 2013.

Rodriguez earned 42 percent of the votes, Roche had 33 percent and Netherlands forward Robin van Persie received 11 percent for his header against Spain at the World Cup.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter made no mention of his upcoming presidential contest in his first public appearance since FIFA vice president Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan declared last week as a candidate for the May ballot.

Blatter gave his annual presidential award to 90-year-old Japanese journalist Hiroshi Kagawa, who worked at his 10th World Cup in Brazil.

FIFA named volunteer workers at its tournaments as the winner of its Fair Play award.

In their acceptance speeches, Kessler and Kellermann both paid tribute to Wolfsburg player Junior Malanda, who died in a car crash at the weekend. □



Abby Wambach of the United States, one of the nominees for the FIFA Women's World Player of the Year, attends a press conference prior to the FIFA Ballon d'Or awarding ceremony at the Kongresshaus in Zurich, Switzerland, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015.

Associated Press

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — Top female players have taken a protest against artificial turf at

the World Cup in Canada to FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke, though with little hope of success. United States forward Abby

Wambach takes World Cup turf protest to FIFA's Valcke

Wambach and Germany midfielder Nadine Kessler met a FIFA delegation Monday ahead of contesting the women's player award at the Ballon d'Or ceremony.

Wambach said at the players' official FIFA news conference that they talked "openly, candidly" with Valcke, but did not expect natural grass pitches to be approved ahead of the June 6 kickoff. "I think FIFA has made their decision and they are sticking to it," the 2012 FIFA player of the

year said. "The powers that be, the logistics, the timing — it just may not happen."

"It's tough because as female athletes we want to be treated equal and we want to be playing on grass," Wambach said.

Wambach and Brazil forward Marta, the third candidate for the 2014 player award, have supported an anti-discrimination legal action filed in a Canadian court. Canada wants to host the men's 2026 World Cup — possibly bidding against the U.S. and Mex-

ico — when a proposal to play on artificial turf is unlikely to be made, or have a chance of winning. However, an effective campaign by women's players would have needed to start sooner and with players included in FIFA's decision-making, Wambach suggested. "If we had better dialogue over a year ago, two years ago when these decisions were really being made maybe we could have put together a coalition sooner to fight this," she said. □

NYC libraries pioneer free hot spot lending to 10,000

By VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Public Library is launching the nation's largest Internet lending program, handing out 10,000 free high-speed hot spots to some of the city's poorest residents.

The program - which offers the devices for up to a year, about a \$1,000 value - seeks to bridge a digital divide in the nation's largest city, where studies have found nearly 3 million of the 8 million people lack broadband access.

"It is simply unfathomable that in the digital world in which we live, one-third of New Yorkers do not have access to broadband Internet at home, putting them at a serious disadvantage at school, in applying for jobs, and so much more," said Anthony Marx, president of the New York Public Library.

Mobile Beacon, a Rhode

Island-based, nonprofit national provider of low-cost Internet services, is working with Sprint to distribute the hot spots to library branches across New York City's five boroughs.

In addition,

Mobile Beacon has similar projects in 74 communities in 20 states, from cities including Chicago and Los Angeles to rural areas of Kansas, Pennsylvania and Texas.

While requirements differ, borrowers generally are eligible if they don't have their own broadband and are registered in library educational programs. Outreach efforts also are aimed at the elderly and disabled seeking health care.

There's one challenge: making sure users have laptops or desktops to link in. Google has so far donated 500 laptops - plus half of the \$2 million in private grants funding the New York City

program - and schools supply them to many children.

"Computers are awesome," said 10-year-old Carlos Apreza of Staten Island,

boasting that his school grades went up by about 30 percent since he got both the hot spot and a computer from the library last year as part of a small test run for the program that was expanded in December.

Carlos and his brother live on a family income of about \$13,000 a year - from their father's paycheck as a restaurant dishwasher.

"We can buy food and some clothes," he added, "but we don't have enough money for technology."

At the Acosta house in Staten Island, the hot spot they started using last year, also as part of the test, has already reaped benefits.

"Our 9-year-old son won first-place at a science fair



In this Jan.10, 2015 photo, a mobile wireless internet hotspot lay on a desk among piles of books at the Free Public Library in New York.

Associated Press

after learning how to make compost - from the Internet," said Evelyn Acosta, supervisor of a home for the developmentally disabled who is the family's sole breadwinner.

Her husband is on disability. Mobile Beacon pioneered the library Internet-lending model three years ago at the Providence Community Library, which previously had provided Internet ac-

cess only through on-site library computers.

"With shrinking municipal budgets and nonstop technological advancement, public libraries need to be customer-driven and ensure their programs keep pace with patrons' evolving needs," says library director Laura Marlane, noting that about 100 million Americans still are without home Internet access. □

PC industry still struggling, but sales decline leveling off

BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Despite some glimmers of recovery, the personal computer industry is still struggling with declining sales, according to two market reports issued Monday that show global PC shipments fell in 2014 for the third year in a row.

One research firm, Gartner, estimated shipments actually increased 1 percent in the fourth quarter. Using different methods, a second firm calculated that shipments fell 2.4 percent in the fourth quarter, but that's not as bad as the 4.8 percent decline that researchers at International Data Corp. had forecast for the period.

"There is improvement in demand," said Jay Chou, a senior researcher at IDC, although he added that 2014 was "still another difficult year" for the PC indus-

try.

Sales actually improved for several of the world's biggest computer-makers, including Lenovo, Hewlett-Packard and Dell, which gained market share from smaller manufacturers in the last quarter. Lenovo remains the world's leading PC seller, but HP showed sizable gains — especially in the United States. Apple also increased its overall sales, although it's not a leading seller outside the United States and Western markets.

Consumers have been buying fewer PCs in recent years because they're increasingly interested in alternatives such as smartphones and tablets. But the steep decline in PC sales over recent years may be leveling off, as computer-makers introduce new models that are both lightweight and low-cost, while still capable of performing



The ATIV One 7 Curved computer is on display at the Samsung booth during the International CES, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

more functions than tablets. Tablet sales are also slumping, analysts say, as the market has become saturated and some consumers find them less useful than PCs.

IDC estimates that computer-makers shipped more than 308.6 million PCs last

year, or about 2.1 percent less than the previous year. That's a smaller decline than the 9.8 percent drop that IDC measured in 2013, according to IDC, which says shipments peaked at 363.8 million in 2011.

Those estimates track roughly in parallel with es-

timates by Gartner, which said PC-makers shipped 315.9 million units in 2014 or just 0.2 percent less than the previous year. Gartner said shipments also fell in the previous two years.

While IDC is projecting another sales decline in 2015, Gartner is forecasting a return to growth — although only by about 1 percent. Even as the industry recovers, "it's not going to be the double-digit growth that we've seen in the past," said Gartner's Mikako Kitagawa.

IDC said sales in 2014 were helped by the introduction of new computer models and some aggressive promotional campaigns. But Chou also said there are signs that some distributors ordered extra inventory in recent months because they're expecting prices to go up. That could mean shipments will slow in coming months. □

Family Dollar urges vote to approve Dollar Tree deal

MICHAEL J. DE LA MERCED
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Almost a month after Family Dollar postponed a shareholder vote on its planned \$8.5 billion merger with Dollar Tree, the company is making a direct pitch to investors to try to win support for the deal.

In a public letter to shareholders released Monday, Howard Levine, Family Dollar's chairman and chief executive, implored investors to support the deal despite a higher \$9.1 billion

bid from its larger rival Dollar General. A new vote on the deal is scheduled for Jan. 22. The letter is the latest move in the battle over the fate of Family Dollar, which agreed in July to merge with Dollar Tree to compete against other low-cost retailers. But Dollar General, blindsided by the move, countered with its own takeover bid.

In his letter, Levine wrote that the company estimated the number of overlapping stores that the Federal

Trade Commission would find troubling in a combination of Family Dollar and Dollar General was 3,500 to 4,500. That is well beyond the 1,500 stores that Dollar General has committed to divesting to win antitrust approval and even more beyond the 700 stores that the retailer has said the government would most likely require to be sold.

By contrast, he added, the trade commission at the moment thinks that 310 stores would be problem-

atic in a merger of Family Dollar and Dollar Tree. Dollar Tree also has offered a compromise that would bring that number down below 300. "In sum, antitrust clearance of the Dollar Tree merger on its terms and in a timely manner is a virtual certainty," Levine wrote. Should shareholders not support the Dollar Tree transaction, the fate of Family Dollar would be as a weakened stand-alone company, Levine wrote, a tough situation given

the forecasts of continued pressure on sales.

And according to Levine, his counterpart at Dollar Tree told him in a letter that the costs of financing their planned merger would rise substantially after Jan. 22. Moreover, Dollar Tree would view any attempt to further postpone the shareholder vote on the deal again as a breach of contract that would result in termination of the merger and a \$305 million breakup fee from Family Dollar. □

US stocks head lower; crude oil price falls again



Specialist Charles Boeddinghaus, right, works with traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Falling oil prices dragged the stock market lower on Monday as Exxon Mobil, Chevron and other big energy companies sank along with crude.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Falling oil prices dragged the stock market lower on Monday as Exxon Mobil, Chevron and other big energy compa-

nies sank along with crude. The steep drop in oil prices over recent months has investors second-guessing expectations for the quarterly earnings season that starts this week.

Sam Stovall, the U.S. equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ, said that it seems that every day brings another drop in Wall Street's earnings forecasts.

"What's happening is that

we're seeing the very low bar for fourth-quarter earnings raising anxiety," Stovall said. "It's the continued decline in oil, but it's also that nearly half of the S&P 500's revenues come from overseas. Japan is in recession, and Europe is teetering on the edge of it."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 16.55 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 2,028.26. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 96.53 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,640.84, and the Nasdaq composite lost 39.36 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,664.71. In a wide-ranging note to clients, Goldman Sachs slashed its forecast for oil prices. It now estimates that that crude will average \$50.40 a barrel this year, far below its previous forecast of \$83.75. It also trimmed its forecast for Brent crude, a type used in international

markets, to \$70 a barrel from \$90.

Oil prices extended their slide, with U.S. crude losing \$2.29 to settle at \$46.07 a barrel. Brent lost \$2.68 to \$47.43. Both trade at their lowest levels since March of 2009. "I think we're going to see plenty more volatility in the coming days as pressure mounts on oil producers to scale back production before prices get dangerously low," said Craig Erlam, market analyst at Alpari. Monday also marked the unofficial start to the fourth-quarter earnings season as Alcoa turned in its latest quarterly results after the closing bell. The aluminum producer reported stronger earnings and revenue than Wall Street expected, pushing the stock up 20 cents, or 1 percent, to \$16.38 in extended trading. □

Roche to buy majority stake in Foundation Medicine

ANDREW POLLACK
© 2015 New York Times

The Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche said on Monday that it would acquire a majority of the tumor-testing company Foundation Medicine for more than \$1 billion, in a deal aimed at improving both cancer treatment and drug development.

Foundation is the leader in the growing area of sequencing the genes of tumor samples, looking for mutations that can help predict which drug will be

most effective for a particular patient.

Roche, which is the world's largest seller of cancer drugs, said it would use some insights from that testing to develop drugs and better tailor them for specific groups of patients. In addition, Roche, which also has a huge diagnostics business, will sell Foundation's tests outside the United States.

"I think it just brings personalized health care in oncology to a new level," Daniel O'Day, who runs Roche's

pharmaceutical business, said in an interview.

For its part, Foundation, which is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will get financial support and work with Roche on some new products. Roche will also help promote such testing to oncologists and pathologists in the United States.

"We believe this approach will become the norm in oncology in the not-too-distant future, and this takes us another step in that direction," Dr. Michael

J. Pellini, the chief executive of Foundation, said in an interview.

Under the terms of the deal, Roche will invest \$250 million in Foundation by acquiring five million newly issued shares at \$50 a share, a 109 percent premium to Foundation's closing price on Friday. Roche will also make a tender offer at the same price to acquire about 15.6 million shares.

In total, Roche would pay just over \$1 billion and end up with a stake of between 52.4 percent and 56.3 per-

cent on a fully diluted basis, the companies said.

The transaction, which is subject to approval by Foundation shareholders, has been approved unanimously by Foundation's board. Three venture capital companies holding a combined 31 percent of Foundation shares - Third Rock Ventures, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and Google Ventures - have agreed to vote for the transaction and to tender at least a majority of their shares. □

Riddle of the Pyramids



JOE NOCERA

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"We're doing God's work," said William Ackman, the hedge fund manager, on CNBC this week. He was referring to his \$1 billion bet against Herbalife, the company that he accuses of being an illegal pyramid scheme. For the two years that Ackman has been "short" Herbalife, it has been the most entertaining of business stories. Carl Icahn and Daniel Loeb - both, like Ackman, activist investors - made a grand show of buying Herbalife stock. The stock went up, meaning Icahn and Loeb were making money while Ackman was losing it. Icahn called Ackman a "cry-baby in the schoolyard." Then the two men kissed and made up at a CNBC conference. Ackman made lengthy presentations laying out his evidence that Herbalife was a pyramid scheme. He set up a website dedicated to exposing it. He raised enough of a stink that both the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department opened investigations. Herbalife fought back with its own battery of PR people and lobbyists. The company adamantly denies being a pyramid scheme. Since the middle of last year, however, it has failed to meet Wall Street's expectations. Now Herbalife's stock is way down. Although Ackman is now making money on his Herbalife bet, he is not satisfied. He expects the stock to go to zero. In a way, the ongoing Ackman-Herbalife story is a little like the coverage of a hotly contested political campaign. The horse-race aspect is so entertaining that sometimes more serious issues get short shrift. In this case, the issue is not whether Ackman is up or down or feuding with Icahn, but whether Herbalife - like dozens of other "multilevel marketing" companies - is, in fact, a pyramid scheme. Pyramid schemes are terrible things - in some ways worse than Ponzi schemes. For one thing, they often involve more money - the direct-selling industry, which includes multilevel marketing, claims that it generates \$154 billion in annual revenue and has some 90 million members worldwide. For another, most pyramid schemes take advantage of lower-income people, who are lured in by the prospect of making money while working from home, only to discover that, as pyramid scheme experts will tell you, 99 percent of the people who participate wind up losing money, and sometimes a lot of

money.

"There are millions of victims," says a pyramid scheme expert named Bruce Craig. "I don't know why people aren't interested in this."

Craig is a former Wisconsin assistant attorney general, now retired, who brought a number of pyramid scheme lawsuits in his day. He is passionate about the issue. What frustrates him even more than the lack of attention is the way the government has, in his view, largely rolled over for the industry.

A pyramid scheme, fundamentally, is a scheme in which the only way to make money is to recruit other people, who recruit other people, and so on. It is a kind of chain letter with a product attached to give it the sheen of legitimacy. Until 1979, the Federal Trade Commission was pretty tough on pyramid schemes, according to Craig. But that year, an administrative judge for the FTC ruled that Amway was not a pyramid scheme because it had certain protections for its members, such as not requiring a large entry fee and buying back excessive inventory. Since then, with a little finesse, pyramid schemes could turn themselves into multilevel marketing companies. Craig has written letters to FTC commissioners asking them to review the Amway decision "on the question of enforcement and enforceability of its rules," an issue he believes allows companies like Amway - and Herbalife - to pretend to be real when in fact they are pyramid schemes. In one of those letters, he quoted from a 2010 FTC staff report that said that identifying pyramid schemes "entails a complex economic analysis." The report added that "there is no bright line disclosure that would help consumers identify a fraudulent pyramid from a legitimate (multilevel marketing company)." Really? When I spoke to John DeSimone, the chief financial officer of Herbalife, he insisted that the company was legit. He said it was built on sales of its weight and nutrition products rather than recruitment. He said it offered numerous protections, such as a money-back guarantee for the first year. He said 80 percent of its members never recruit another person. Ackman, for his part, says that none of this is true, and that the FTC will ultimately see that Herbalife is the very definition of a pyramid scheme. Assuming, of course, that the FTC has a definition. On Friday afternoon, I called the agency and asked what distinguished an illegal pyramid scheme from a legal direct-selling company. Even having talked to Craig, I found it hard to believe that it wouldn't have some kind of definition.

A few hours later, I received an email from an FTC public relations staffer. "I'm sorry," it began, "but we won't be able to offer you any on (or off) record assistance." □



The Deano Chronicles, Continued



MAUREEN DOWD

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Kissing the sun. Swilling merlot. Plotting revenge. Life is good for John Boehner.

Lying in a hammock at his new condo in Marco Island, Florida, the speaker of the House is even closing in on his goal of getting darker than the oxblood leather wingback chair in his Capitol office.

D.C.'s Dean Martin is relaxing, reviewing the tumultuous first week of the 114th Congress. There were the usual annoyances. The speaker told the press that he was comfortable in his skin even as his skin made the press uncomfortable. The New York Times' First Draft did a Sherwin-Williams analysis of Boehner's strikingly darker hue, syncing it to a color called "Husky Orange."

And there were serious irritations, like another coup attempt by Tea Partiers eager to wreck the celebration of their party's congressional takeover. This really bugs Boehner. How could a blue-collar Ohio pol who came to Congress in 1991 as a revolutionary be denounced as too establishment? How could critics dismiss him as "a squish?" How could he nearly be toppled from his speakership by a nobody named Ted Yoho?

Even in the flush of victory, the 65-year-old is hurt that some consider him a RINO, a fauxpublican who doesn't have the brass to stand up to President Barack Obama on immigration.

"That knuckle-dragger Hannity called me 'cowardly,'" he mutters, lighting up another Ultra Light Camel. "I'm the most anti-

establishment speaker we've ever had." Hadn't he always fought the good fight on earmarks? Hadn't he always kept his regular-guy, son-of-a-Cincinnati-barkeep personality? Didn't he still cut his own grass and eat breakfast at Pete's Diner on the Hill?

As they had sat in his office, watching the dramatic vote count for speaker on C-SPAN, Boehner made his true feelings clear to his rat-pack pal, Saxby Chambliss: "Do these morons think they could do any better? Could Louie Gohmert really run the House better than me?"

"I let Ted Yahoo make the response to Obama's immigration order and he ran against me. Now I want him deported. And how about that Daniel Webster? At least the original tried to prevent civil war. I gave him a plum assignment on the Rules Committee and he ran against me. Then little Danny had the nerve to want his picture taken with me."

"If this were Chicago, those rat-finks would be in Lake Michigan. I did kick two of the quislings off the Rules Committee. My wife and my rat pack want vengeance. But I don't do anger. I'm going to try to rise above it, and believe me, it's not that hard to rise above guys like Gohmert and Yoho."

"We got the biggest majority since the Great Depression, but my pallie Mitch might be in for a shock. He's been bragging that he's going to get the Senate working again and move beyond the culture of 'No' that he created. I found out the hard way that you can't get these knuckleheads to agree on anything except their right to be re-elected."

His BlackBerry ring-a-ding dings, flashing a Florida area code.

"That better not be Webster or Yahoo," he mutters. Listening, he grins. "Hey, Jeb," he says warmly. "What's up? I hope you didn't take offense when I said I was anti-establishment."

Pause. "Oh, you are, too?"

Boehner chuckles as the call

ends, thinking an anti-establishment Bush is going to be an even tougher sell than an anti-establishment Boehner.

With everything else going on, he even had to come to the defense of Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, one of his top lieutenants, who spoke to a racist group back in 2002.

"I told those reporters that I knew, in his heart, Steve wasn't a white supremacist," Boehner says, laughing. "How could he be when he hangs out with somebody like me? Even President Obama called me a 'person of color,' hailing my orange as 'the new black.'"

Thinking about Obama makes Boehner wince.

"So now President Harvard wants to give everybody free community-college educations? Should we do their homework for them, too? I had to work my way through school as a janitor."

He wonders if the president saw Glenn Thrush's piece in Politico revealing that, sometimes when Obama calls Boehner, the speaker puts the receiver on his desk, rolls his eyes and lights a Camel while the president drones on.

The speaker shrugs, rolls his eyes and lights a Camel. "The president keeps saying that he wants to work with us, but then he acts like his pal, the Cuban dictator," he says. "He's going to veto the Keystone pipeline. Executive orders have become par for the course. At least he's par somewhere."

"Obama acts all liberated, but he's just killing time. He was out of town all week and no one even noticed he was gone. Maybe I'll retire with him. I don't do legacy and I can't bear the thought of going through another one of these battles for speaker with peabrains with slingshots."

"I can give speeches, get on boards and play Augusta National, just like all those other anti-establishment types."

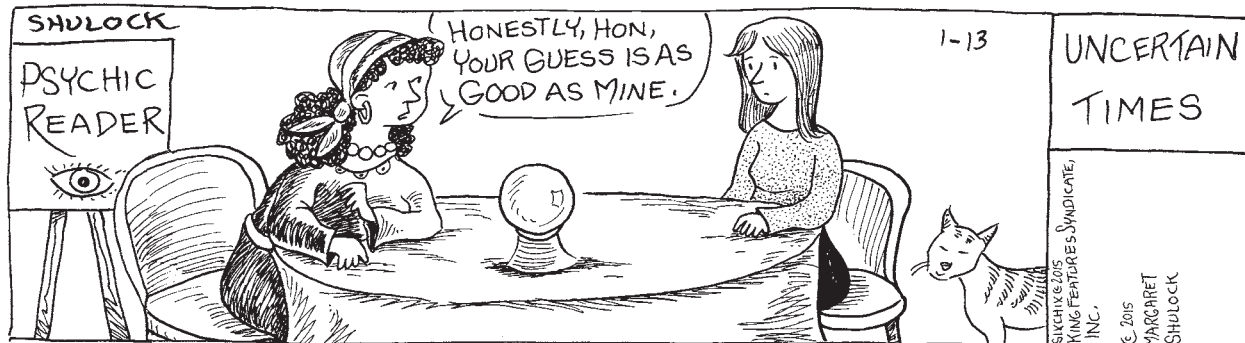
He refills his glass of red wine as his blue eyes fill with tears.

"It's still just me, guys," he sobs, "doing it my way." □

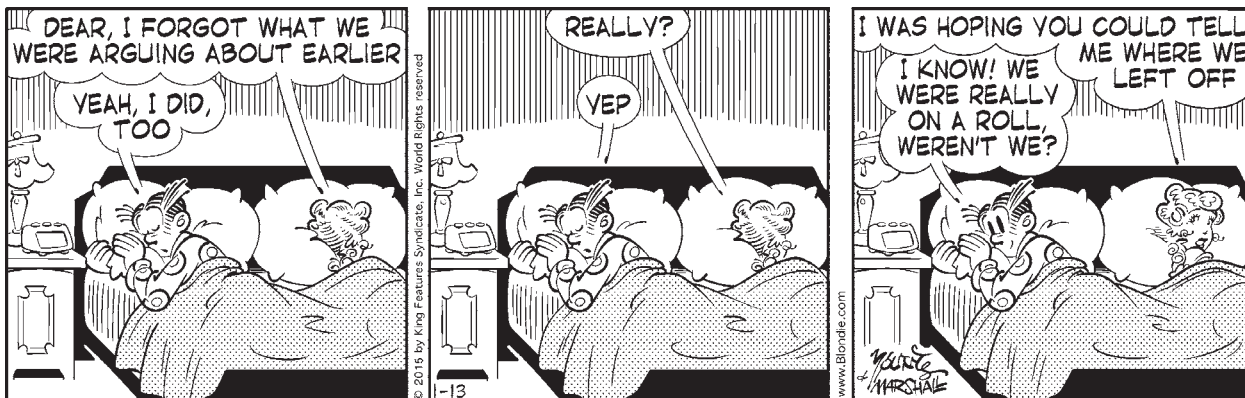
Mutts



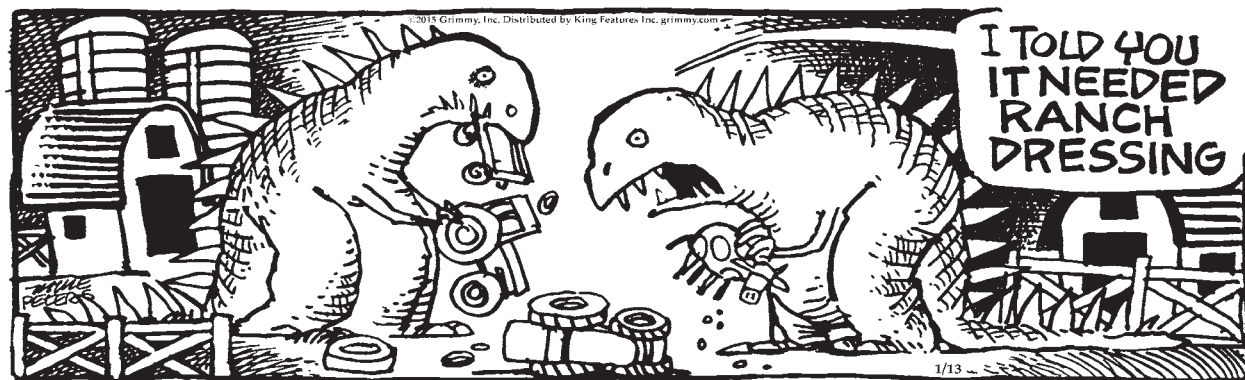
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	7		8	6	3			
5						9		
			4				7	
9		3						2
2				3				7
4						8		6
	2				7			
		6						9
			2	4	8		5	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

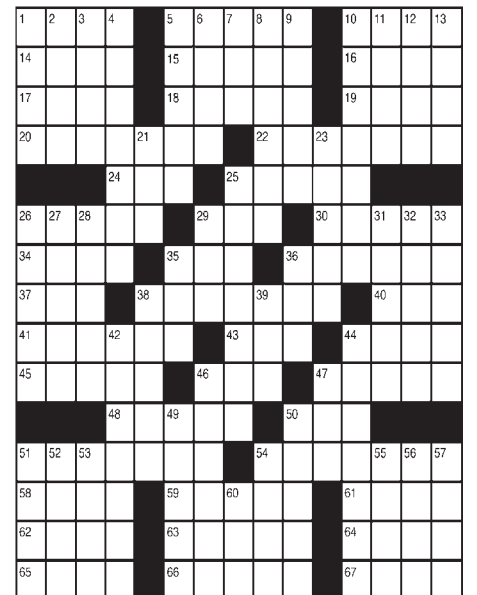
6	3	5	9	4	2	7	8	1
1	7	9	8	6	5	4	3	2
4	8	2	3	1	7	9	5	6
2	1	3	7	8	9	6	4	5
9	4	7	5	2	6	8	1	3
8	5	6	4	3	1	2	9	7
3	2	4	6	5	8	1	7	9
7	6	8	1	9	3	5	2	4
5	9	1	2	7	4	3	6	8

ACROSS

- Roast choice
- Kilns
- Word in a red octagon
- On ___ with; equivalent to
- Aviator
- Family member
- Toy with a string
- Follow as a result of
- Plow animals
- Catch in a trap
- Real
- Go out ___ limb; take a risk
- Business deals
- Scam
- ___ to be tied; enraged
- Mountaintops
- Deserve
- Ulna's location
- Graduation cap dangle
- Highest club
- Unflinching
- Plato's "T"
- Half of Congress
- Tell a fib
- Strikes
- Swap
- Evil
- Stern; severe
- Part of a baseball cap
- Baby's eating accessory
- Stockpile of weapons
- Candidate
- Cherished
- Copy machine
- Albacore, e.g.
- Curry & Jillian
- Clear the slate
- Finds a sum
- Apple pie à la
- Yrb. section
- SAT, for one

DOWN

- Comic actress Martha



Monday's Puzzle Solved

ACME	OFAGE	LOGE
TEAL	NICER	OPEN
ODDS	INTERESTED	
PEA	DONS	DESKS
GAINS	FDR	
BLADES	HOISTS	
LISZT	STOLE	RPM
ONCE	STOOD	HERO
BEA	THANK	ROMEO
DRAWER	RUPEES	
RED	SHEEN	
SHAME	SKID	DOS
POLITICIAN	YOGA	
ABLE	LOTTO	OURS
TOYS	KNEES	USES

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1/13/15

- Spanish hero
- Unfavorable, as conditions
- Natural environment
- Short jacket
- That fellow
- Woodwinds, for short
- Crates
- Eve's mate
- City in Nevada
- Make smooth
- Have a snack
- Naked
- Puts a stop to
- Vane direction
- Dr. Dre's music

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view \$15K
1 br wk 04 rom 103 pool/ocean
view \$10K
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10	137	\$9,000
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14	540	\$5,000
14	349	\$11,000
10	521	\$8,500
9	135	\$9,000

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STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
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AMBULANCE	584-5050

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San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5712

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TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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SpaceX supply ship arrives at space station with groceries

MARCIA DUNN

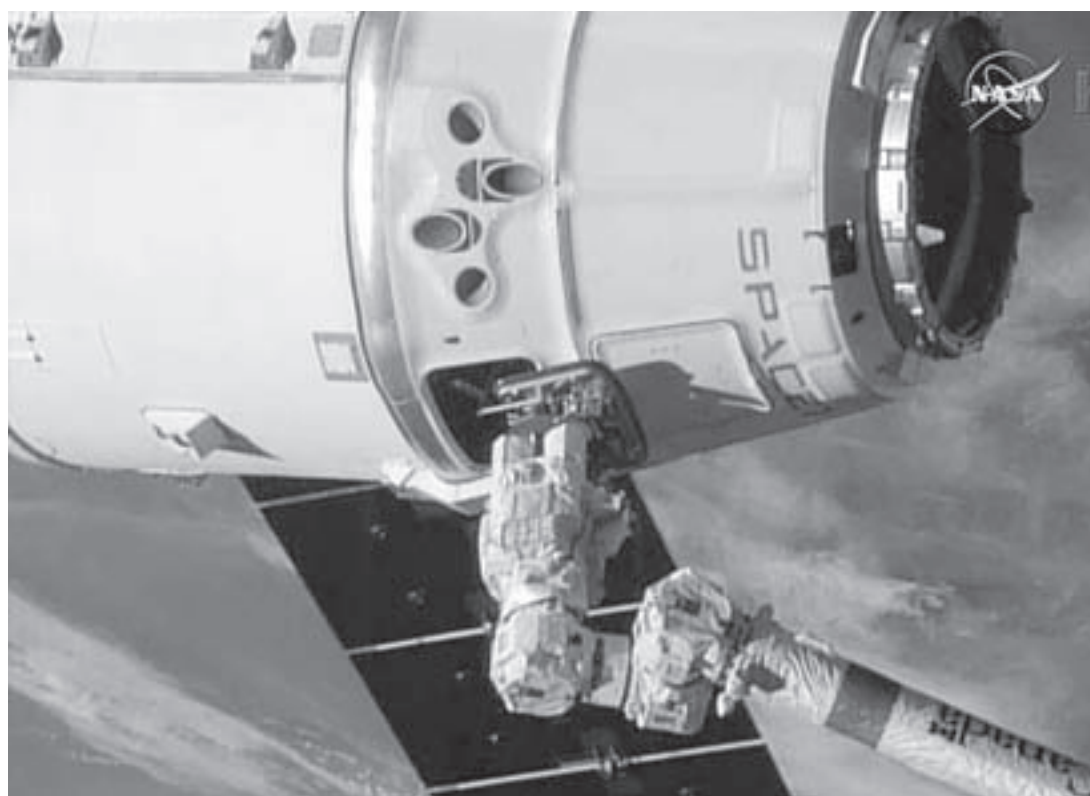
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A shipment of

much-needed groceries and belated Christmas presents finally arrived Monday morning at the International Space Station.

The SpaceX company's supply ship, Dragon, pulled up at the orbiting lab two days after its liftoff from Florida. Station commander Butch Wilmore used a robot arm to grab the capsule and its 5,000 pounds of cargo, as the craft soared more than 260 miles above the Mediterranean.

The space station's six astronauts were getting a little low on supplies. That's because the previous supply ship — owned by another company — was destroyed in an October launch explosion. NASA scrambled to get equipment lost in the blast aboard Dragon, as did school children who rustled up new science projects. Then Dragon was stalled a month by rocket snags; it should have gotten to the space station well before



In this video frame grab provided by NASA, the the International Space Station's robotic arm, lower right, operated by station commander Butch Wilmore, reaches for the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft as the soar more than 260 miles above the Mediterranean Sea on Monday, Jan. 12, 2015.

Associated Press

Christmas.

Mission Control joked about missing not only the December shipment date, but Eastern Orthodox Christmas on Jan. 7 as well

for the three Russian crew member. There are also two Americans and an Italian on board.

"We're excited to have it on board," said U.S. astro-

naut Wilmore said. "We'll be digging in soon."

He's especially eager to get more mustard. The station's condiment cabinet is empty.

NASA is paying SpaceX and Orbital Sciences Corp. for shipments. Orbital's rockets are grounded until next year, however, because of its launch accident. SpaceX — the only supplier capable of returning items to Earth — is picking up as much slack as it can. Russian and Japan also plan deliveries this year.

SpaceX is still poring over data from Saturday's attempt to land the rocket on a floating barge, the first test of its kind.

After the first stage of the Falcon rocket peeled away as planned following liftoff, it flew back to a giant platform floating off the Florida coast. The guidance fins on the booster ran out of hydraulic fluid, however, right before touchdown, and it landed hard and broke into pieces.

The California company's billionaire founder, Elon Musk, was encouraged nonetheless and plans another rocket-landing test next month.

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Pacific Coast sea bird die-off puzzles scientists

SALEM, Oregon (AP) —

Scientists are trying to figure out what's behind the deaths of seabirds that have been found by the hundreds along the Pacific Coast since October.

Mass die-offs of the small, white-bellied gray birds known as Cassin's auklets have been reported from British Columbia to San Luis Obispo, California. It's normal for some seabirds to die during harsh winter conditions, especially during big storms, but the

scale of the current die-off is unusual. "To be this lengthy and geographically widespread, I think is kind of unprecedented," Phillip Johnson, executive director of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, told the Salem Statesman Journal. "It's an interesting and somewhat mysterious event." The birds appear to be starving to death, so experts don't believe a toxin is the culprit, said Julia Burco, a wildlife veterinarian for the Oregon Depart-

ment of Fish and Wildlife.

But why the birds can't find food is a mystery.

Researchers say it could be the result of a successful breeding season, leading to too many young birds competing for food. Unusually violent storms might be pushing the birds into areas they're not used to or preventing them from foraging. Or a warmer, more acidic ocean could be affecting the supply of tiny zooplankton, such as krill, that the birds eat.

CBS 'Odd Couple' remake brings back comic vet

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) -- CBS has brought in an expert to help launch its remake of "The Odd Couple" starring Matthew Perry: the legendary producer who adapted Neil Simon's Broadway play into the television series that starred Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

Garry Marshall, who went on to create "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley" and "Mork & Mindy," is helping Bob Daily, the new show's executive producer, as a consultant. Cast members say Marshall is on the set each week pitching jokes and telling stories. Marshall, a neighbor of CBS



In this Sept. 12, 2012 file photo, Garry Marshall attends the West Coast premiere of "The Book of Mormon" at the Pantages Theatre, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves, came on at Moonves' suggestion. Daily



Matthew Perry speaks during "The Odd Couple" panel at the CBS/Showtime 2015 Winter TCA on Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Pasadena, Calif. Associated Press

said he got into the business partly because of his love for the shows Marshall made, so he was happy to have him. Marshall, 80, said a big fac-

tor in coming back was that it's being made in a studio close to his home. "Just to have Garry's endorsement alone was huge," said Perry, who plays Oscar Madison to co-star Thomas Lennon's Felix Unger.

Marshall said he was happy to revisit the show. "It was the first show that I ever did that was a hit," he said. "It kind of made my career." His involvement was a reminder how times had changed since the original sitcom aired on ABC from 1970 to 1975. In the 1970s,

the show had no women writers. Marshall said ABC wanted to have as many women actresses around the two lead characters as possible because the network thought viewers might believe they were gay.

Daily, a former writer on "Frasier," said the concept of "The Odd Couple" is durable and it was time to update it. "'Frasier' was basically 'The Odd Couple' with one Oscar and two Felixes," he said.

The show is updated for the times - Madison isn't a newspaper sportswriter, he hosts a sports radio talk show - but doesn't rely on old scripts or story lines. There was one exception, with a joke on the show's pilot lifted directly from Simon's play.

"The funniest joke in the pilot was written 45 years ago," Perry said.

Perry brought the idea of a remake to CBS at about the same time as the network had independently been thinking about reviving it, so the timing proved fortuitous. □

TV game show 'Jeopardy!' to highlight 'Aladdin' on Thursday

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The actor who plays Aladdin on Broadway has gotten yet another cool wish — a spot on "Jeopardy!"

Adam Jacobs, who plays the title role in the new Disney blockbuster, will help represent the show Thursday when it appears as an entire category of answers. "I think it's going to be great exposure and get people excited to possibly see our show," Jacobs said. "'Jeopardy!'" has been around forever and Broadway has been around forever — at least in my lifetime — so it's kind of cool the two worlds are meeting."

This will be the third time the game show hosted by Alex Trebek has joined with a show to dedicate a whole category to a single Broadway offering. It also did so twice in 2013 for "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella" and the 10th anniversary of "Wicked."

"Jeopardy!" has long given Broadway a boost since its debut in 1984, offering such categories as "Broadway Musicals" and "Pop Singers on Broadway." That's priceless publicity for stage shows because "Jeopardy!" is seen by an

average of 25 million viewers a week. Last season, total attendance on Broadway reached 12.2 million. Actors from Broadway shows have also previously presented clues, including from "Mamma Mia!" "Jersey Boys" and "The Color Purple." Playwright Edward Albee and composer Andrew Lloyd Webber even had their own five-question categories.

For a Broadway musical to get an entire category, the show has to be able to spark questions beyond the stage, said Rocky Schmidt, the supervising producer of the game show and a Broadway fan.

"We can't really do a whole category if a lot of people haven't seen the show, so there are only certain kinds of shows we can do this with," he said. "Anything is fair game for a clue. Categories are always a challenge."

"Aladdin," based in the 1992, Robin Williams-voiced animated version has songs by theater legend Alan Menken including "Friend Like Me" and "A Whole New World" and is directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winner Casey Nicholaw. It's Genie, James Monroe Iglehart, won a best fea-

tured actor Tony last year. Though sworn to secrecy, Jacobs did say that the actual source story for "Aladdin" is thousands of years old, was turned into a beloved film and has

Will 'Two and a Half Men' end run with or without Sheen?

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Charlie Sheen left "Two and a Half Men" amid great drama. Whether he'll return for the show's last episode is a mystery.

CBS entertainment chief Nina Tassler ducked the question when pressed at a meeting Monday of the Television Critics Association.

"I can promise you there will be a lot of surprises," Tassler said. Series executive producer Chuck Lorre has promised to deliver "what he's calling a 'mystery sandwich,'" she added.

"Two and a Half Men," which once reigned as TV's top-rated comedy, wraps its 12th and final season this spring.

Sheen was fired in 2011 by studio Warner Bros. Television because of his erratic



This June 26, 2012 file photo shows actor Charlie Sheen attending the FX Summer Comedies Party at Lure in Los Angeles. Associated Press

personal life and public ridicule of his bosses, including Lorre. Charlie Harper, Sheen's character, left along with him: Harper was hit by a subway train in Paris and killed.

Ashton Kutcher joined the series, starring with Jon Cryer.

How the late Charlie Harper could materialize is another secret that Lorre may, or may not, be keeping. □



In this Sept. 22, 2014 file photo, Tony Danza attends the Metropolitan Opera 2014-15 season opening production of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" at Lincoln Center in New York.

Associated Press

Tony Danza makes Broadway very personal

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When you're standing around in Times Square trying to decide which Broadway show to see, don't be surprised if you get a visit from Tony Danza.

The "Taxi" and "Who's the Boss?" star isn't exactly shy about sharing the news that he's starring in the new Broadway musical "Honeymoon in Vegas" and nudging folks to his theater.

"I just walk up," Danza says. "I just convince people. I say, 'Listen what are you going to do? You come to New York and you see a Disney thing? C'mon! What, are you crazy?'"

The pitch often works, mostly thanks to Danza's sheer boyish charm, impish sense of humor (he has a fondness for saying "Holy mackerel!") and that honking Brooklyn accent.

Rob McClure, Danza's co-star, has seen the Danza Effect firsthand. He's been with the wiry former boxer when he tries to turn TV fans into stage ones.

"It doesn't matter where he is. He does it on the subway. He does it at the gym.

He is genuinely that excited about what he's doing," says McClure.

"He just sees a bunch of people standing around deciding what show to see, so of course, he's going to go, 'Let me tell you what show to see: The one I'm most excited about.' It's really not from a selling point of view. It's from a pride point of view."

"Honeymoon in Vegas," adapted from a 1992 movie starring James Caan, Nicolas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker, has music by Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown and tells the story of a reluctant groom whose bride-to-be is courted by a Vegas wise-guy, played by Danza.

Danza, whose Broadway credits include "The Iceman Cometh" and Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge," was initially resistant to another film-to-stage adaptation until Brown came to visit four years ago and played him one of the songs, "Out of the Sun."

"It was like, Holy mackerel! I get to sing that? I'm in!" says Danza. "It's the best score I've heard since

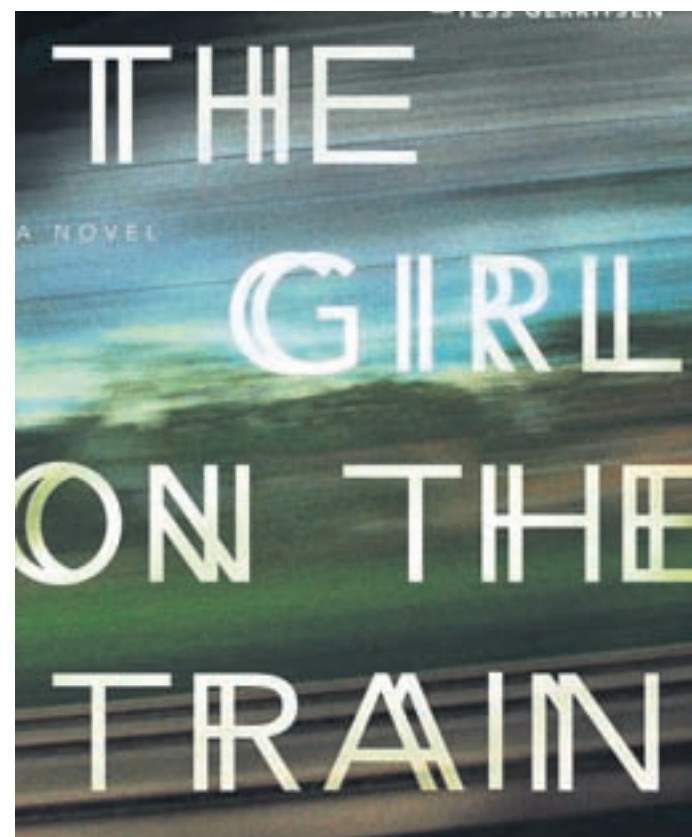
'West Side Story.'"

Danza has thrown himself into all aspects of the show, hitting the gym daily to stay fit, strengthening his voice and selling the musical wherever he can. Appear in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade? Sure. Host an event celebrating Kids Night on Broadway? Of course. Perform his cabaret act to help break the Guinness World Record for the longest variety show ever? Naturally.

Danza even recently found himself singing Christmas songs in a Brooks Brothers store as part of the musical's promotion. "People are buying ties and I'm singing, 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.' People are like, 'What's going on?'" he recalls with a laugh.

McClure says Danza is one of the first members of the company to show up for work each day and never fails to practice his tap routine before the audience arrives. McClure says he looks out for his co-stars' health, too, substituting McClure's breakfast of microwaved burritos with Danza's homemade chicken soup. □

Review: 'The Girl on the Train' has realistic plot



This photo provided by Riverhead Books shows the cover of the book, "The Girl on the Train," by author Paula Hawkins.

Associated Press

OLINE H. COGDILL
Associated Press

How many times have you been on a train and wondered about the people who live near the tracks and leave their curtains open so that passersby can watch them?

That voyeuristic view of lives as seen from a distance echoes the themes of obsession, isolation and loneliness explored in "The Girl on the Train." British journalist Paula Hawkins deftly imbues her debut psychological thriller with inventive twists and a shocking denouement.

Rachel Watson does more than glance at the patio of the two-story house when her train makes its stop at a signal during the hour-long commute to London. She's made up a scenario about a loving couple she calls Jason and Jess, imagining a happy life as they sip their coffee in the well-tended garden. Then one day Rachel spies the woman kissing another man — and her fantasy world undergoes a drastic change.

Rachel is no casual voyeur

to the couple's domestic scene. Two years earlier, when she was married, Rachel lived four doors down from the duo — whose real names are Scott and Megan Hipwell. Now often drunk, Rachel stalks her ex-husband, Tom Watson, and his current wife, Anna, following them in her former neighborhood, sneaking into their house, even trying to take their infant daughter. When Megan disappears, Rachel insinuates herself into the investigation and becomes friends with Scott. She also tries to stop drinking. "I am interested, for the first time in ages, in something other than my own misery. I have a purpose. Or at least, I have a distraction." Rachel also has a problem — she was spotted acting out of control in the neighborhood on the night Megan vanished. Intense character studies complement the realistic plot. Hawkins creatively uses the unreliable narrator as "The Girl on the Train" alternates among the first-person recollections of Rachel, Anna and Megan. □

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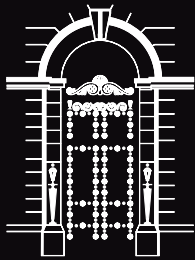
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